Napocor raps GSIS for insurance padding

STORY ON PAGE A2

Gloria welcomes anti-terror front

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL, JULIE ALIPALA-INOT AND ANTHONY S. ALLADA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday welcomed a proposal to put up a people's network against terrorism as the military announced the capture of 13 members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, including Adjid Moro, one of its leaders.

GLORIA/ A20

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2001 ★★ 62 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 299 ₱15

Russian airliner from Israel explodes

MOSCOW—A Russian chartered airliner heading from Tel Aviv to Siberia exploded in flight Thursday and crashed off the Black Sea coast with at least 77 people on board, and President Vladimir Putin said that terrorism could be the cause.

All passengers were Israelis, according to the Associated Press.

RUSSIAN/ A20

GMA accepts US proof

President gets same briefing provided int'l coalition

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

THE UNITED States has provided President Macapagal-Arroyo a "detailed summary" of the evidence against Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network.

And the President is convinced about the evidence linking Bin Laden to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday said US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Robert Fitts went to Malacañang late Wednesday afternoon and gave a 30-minute briefing.

Golez said Ms Macapagal "found the presentation very convincing and reiterated her support to the United States and the international coalition against terrorism."

Golez said the classified information provided Ms Macapagal was similar to what the US government had given its other allies in the international coalition.

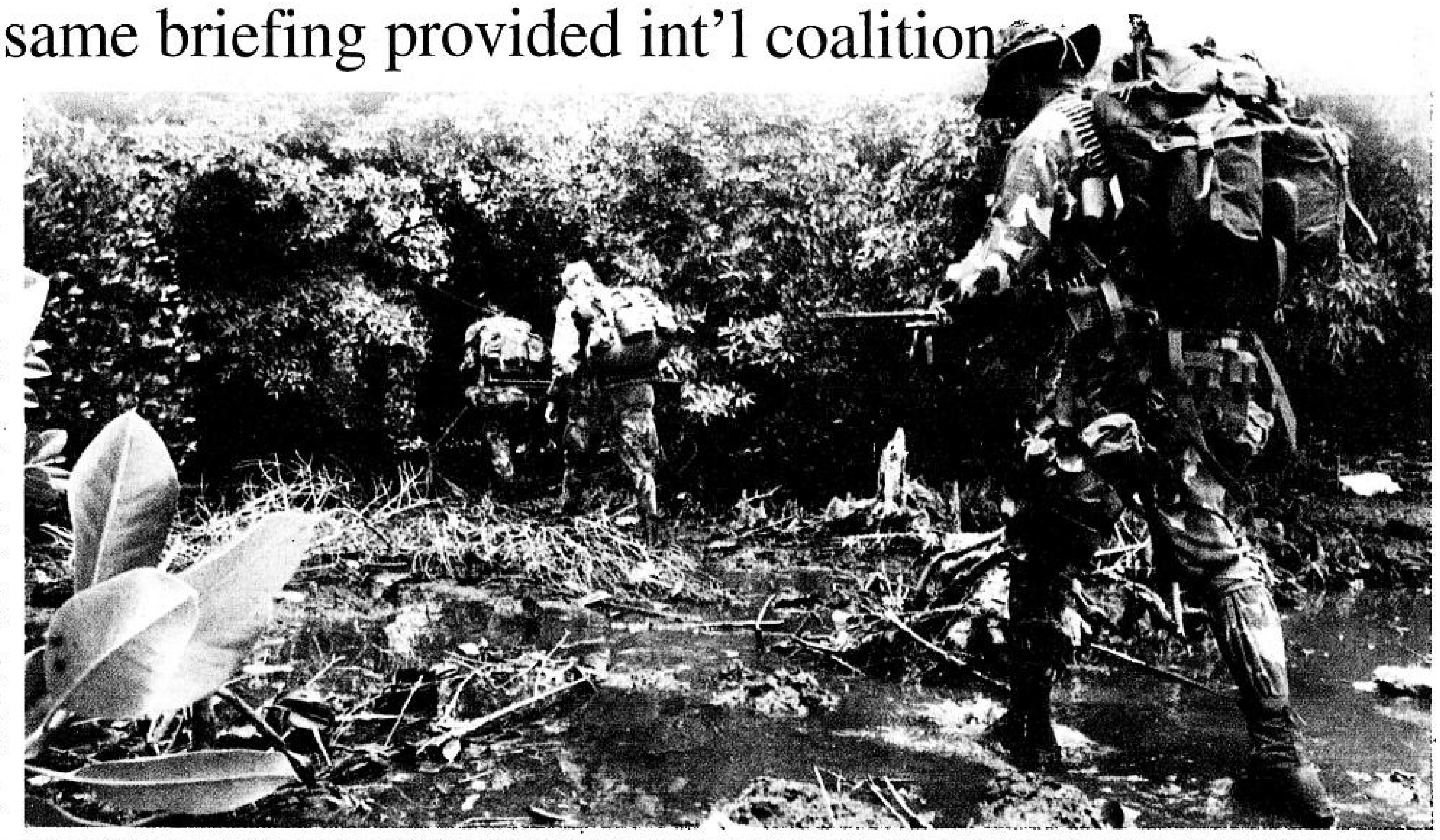
Fitts provided a list of other terrorist attacks allegedly "orchestrated" by Bin Laden, Golez said.

"In particular, the information showed that some of the terrorists involved in the air strikes also took part in past terrorist attacks on US targets that resulted in hundreds of deaths to civilians, US military personnel and nationals of the host country," he said.

Golez was referring to the bombings of the US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998 and the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen last year.

Bin Laden has been indicted in the United

US PROOF/ A20



TERRORISTS of the local variety are being hunted down by the Philippine Marines 3rd Battalion Landing Team in the swampy mangroves of Basilan where elements of the Abu Sayyaf were last seen with their two American hostages.

CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Show evidence, First Couple dares foes

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE FIRST Couple yesterday demanded that critics of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo produce evidence that he had misused funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, through her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, said that her husband had "nothing to do" with the PCSO and that the agency and its chair, Ma. Livia Singson-de Leon, were "more than capable of proving the integrity of (its) advertising transactions."

Arroyo, through his own spokesperson Patricia Bunye, said the allegations raised against him were "baseless" and "exaggerated."

Bunye said in an interview with radio dzBB that the charges being leveled at Arroyo were part of an attempt to hit at the administration.

In a privilege speech delivered Wednesday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Arroyo had made the PCSO a "cash cow" and used P250 million of its funds for the election campaign of four senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition. He named former PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero as his "informant."

The two candidates that Lacson named—Ernesto Herrera, a former senator and Bohol congressman, and Roberto Pagdanganan, a former governor of Bulacan—yesterday denied this.

Tiglao told reporters that Lacson should come out with "whatever evidence he pretends to have."

"If Lacson cannot present his evidence, he must apologize for using the august body that is the Senate for his desperate political flailing and mud-slinging," Tiglao said, adding:

"He must also apologize for impugning the integrity of senators . . . who he alleges were beneficiaries of PCSO funds in the last elections . . . It is the word of a disgruntled former PCSO media consultant with ties to Lacson's office against that of

SHOW/ A20

Pimentel wanted charges substantiated

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday admitted that he chose not to deliver a speech on First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's alleged misuse of P250 million in sweepstakes funds because he wanted more proof and witnesses.

Interviewed over radio station dzRH, Pimentel said he was also fearful that Robert Rivero, a former media consultant of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, might later make a retraction.

He said he had wanted Rivero to present another witness to back claims made in three affidavits.

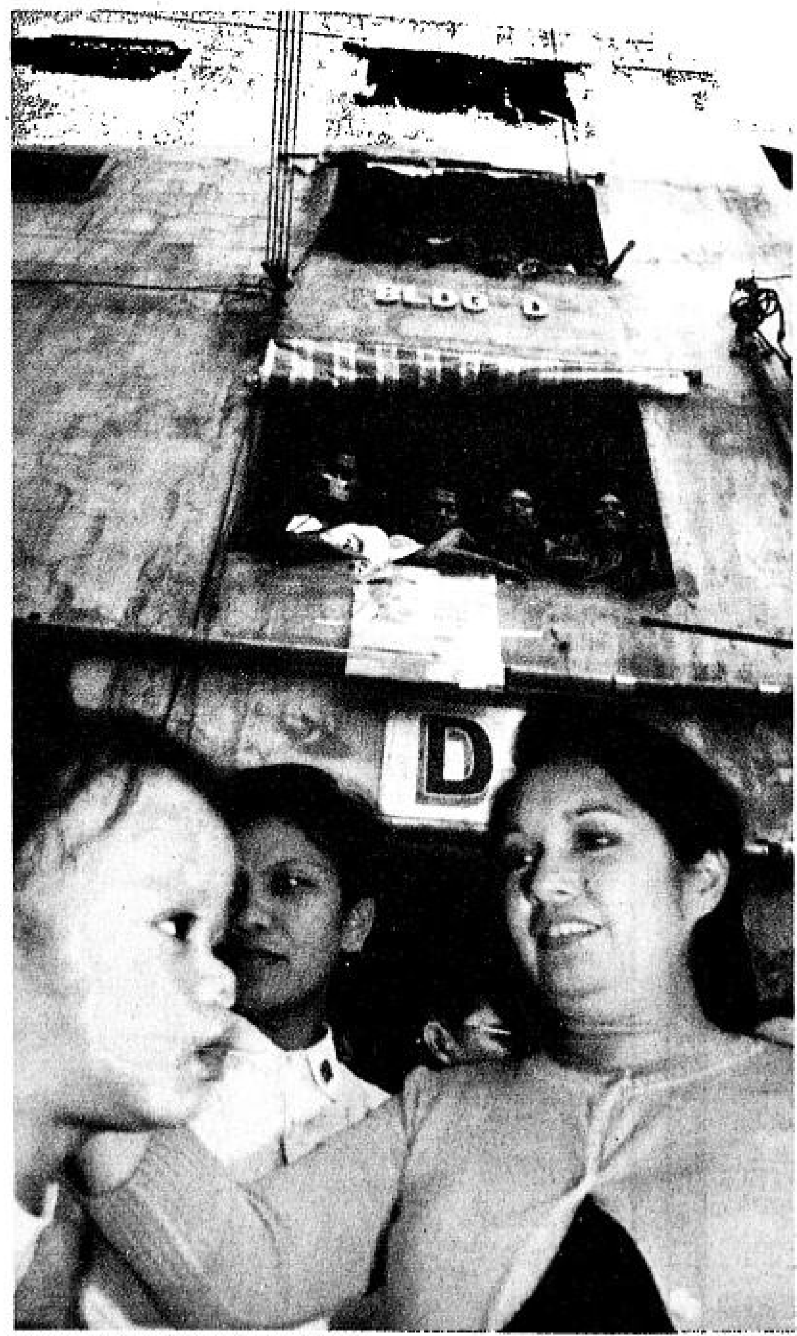
"Our agreement was for him to present another person to testify on what he said in those affidavits," Pimentel said, adding that as a lawyer, he was meticulous about whether issues brought to him were backed by hard evidence.

Pimentel was referring to the draft speech that was leaked to the media Monday and that was to have been delivered by him. He has denied authoring it or ever intending to deliver it.

In a phone interview, Rivero assailed Pimentel for failing to make good his supposed promise to deliver the speech.

"My sources in Malacañang told me that Pimentel was pressured by Malacañang not to go on with his

PIMENTEL/ A20



WHIRLWIND COURTSHIP

EDWIN BAÇASMAS

President Macapagal is at it again on Thursday—winning the hearts and minds of the residents of depressed areas, this time at the Rawls Sambahayan Estate project in Tondo, Manila.

Driver, Kuratong, RSG are suspects in Wong's killing

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE DRIVER of Connie Yap Wong, a Chinese-Filipino businesswoman who was killed along with her police bodyguard after she refused to pay a huge ransom, is now a suspect in the double murder.

So are the remnants of the Red Scorpion Gang and the Kuratong Baleleng Gang, according to Malacañang and police officials.

The execution-style killing of Wong and PO1 Dionisio Burca Jr. after they were abducted early this week may signal a new wave of kidnapping for ransom in the country, said Teresita Ang See, head of the Citizen's Action Against Crime.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo is very concerned about it," her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto said it was possible that the kidnappers left Wong's driver, Arcangel Barquilla, alive because he belonged to the kidnap-for-ransom syndicate.

DRIVER/ A7

Anti-drug 'vigilante' massacres 6 men

BY CARMELA REYES AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Six men, believed to be victims of summary execution, were found dead along a grassy lot in Barangay Sacdalan here yesterday.

Police recovered a folder from the scene with writing on it saying: "Pusher *kami*. All-out war *sa* pusher-drug lord. *Para sa bayan.* Vigilante (For the country)."

Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said the names of the victims were also written on the folder.

Acuña said the bodies bore bullet wounds.

They were identified as Florentino Pablo, Geronimo Pablo, Gerardo Pablo, Michael Nuera, Manolo Santos and Dindo Fernando.

Police also found a cartridge case of an M-16 Armalite rifle, a .45 cal. carton case and a slug of .45 cal. automatic.

Police investigations showed only two of the six victims were killed at the scene as the

ANTI-DRUG/ A20

Tiglao not told on new Golez job

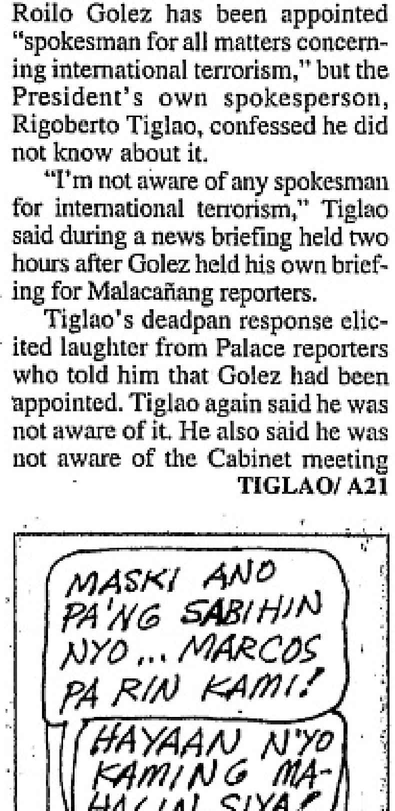
BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

NATIONAL Security Adviser Roilo Golez has been appointed "spokesman for all matters concerning international terrorism," but the President's own spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, confessed he did not know about it.

"I'm not aware of any spokesman for international terrorism," Tiglao said during a news briefing held two hours after Golez held his own briefing for Malacañang reporters.

Tiglao's deadpan response elicited laughter from Palace reporters who told him that Golez had been appointed. Tiglao again said he was not aware of it. He also said he was not aware of the Cabinet meeting

TIGLAO/ A21



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Marcos: Hero or heel? Debate rages

TWELVE years after his death, controversy continues to hound the only Philippine president who imposed martial rule, Ferdinand Marcos.

For the people of Ilocos Norte, Marcos continues to be their "*kailian,*" their "Apo," their son, their hero.

MARCOS/ A21

PNP says drugs a ₱300-B trade

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTIAGO CITY—The illegal shabu trade has become the top earner of criminal syndicates in the country with a reported income for this year alone pegged at P300 billion, according to a top official of the Philippine National Police.

Director Miguel Coronel, chief of the PNP National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center, said that based on police records the country now has 1.7 million illegal drug users.

Coronel, who was guest during last week's regional assembly of the Kill Droga (Kilos Laya Laban sa Droga), said the illegal drug trade was worth P250 billion in 1998 and about P300 billion today.

"That is why it (illegal drug trade) is one of the main sources of money laundering or what we call dirty money," he said.

Coronel sadly noted that most of the illegal drug users in the country were between 15 and 29 years old.

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Napocor raps GSIS for insurance padding

By Armand N. Nocum

SOME senators and National Power Corp. officials have uncovered an alleged scam involving the padding of insurance premiums the Government Service Insurance System was charging Napocor.

In addition, the state-owned power firm was forced to shell out $77 million to pay for repairs to its power plants and grids after the GSIS failed to pay Napocor its insurance claims.

This after Napocor had reportedly paid the GSIS a total of $47 million in insurance premiums over the last five years.

"In other words, Napocor paid $47 million over five years to insure its property, but when it experienced some damage, the GSIS did not pay them so they had to spend out of pocket to repair their damage," said Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, describing the plight of Napocor.

It was Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate finance committee and Sergio's cousin, who first raised the insurance issue during a hearing into Napocor's budget yesterday.

The two Osmeñas oversaw the budget hearing.

Jesus N. Alcordo, Napocor president and CEO, confirmed the problem, prompting Sergio Osmeña to call for an investigation.

Alcordo said Napocor looked into its records and found that it had "claims collectibles and receivables" amounting to $41 million from the GSIS.

In the past five years, the GSIS paid out only $1.6 million to Napocor, he said.

"In the meantime, Napocor had to spend its own money amounting to $77 million to repair damage it had suffered," Alcordo said.

Through the years, he said, the GSIS and seven foreign-based companies with which the GSIS "reinsured" Napocor's coverage would give them the runaround, asking them to produce one document after another, whenever Napocor tried to collect on its insurance coverage.

Sergio Osmeña explained that the GSIS only insured five percent of the coverage and passed on the other 95 percent to several foreign insurance firms, including Jardine, Marsh and AIG.

Faced with difficulty in collecting its insurance claims, Napocor officials went abroad and discovered there the alleged premium padding by the GSIS.

In one industrial all-risk (IAR) insurance policy, the GSIS reportedly billed Napocor $13.5 million, but the London-based reinsurers turned out to be only asking for $5 million in premium.

Osmeña asked, "What happened to the $8 million difference?"

He said the Senate will ask past GSIS officials, including former president Federico Pascual, to shed light on the matter in another hearing.

"It will be very difficult to unmask who got the kickback, but at least we can prove by circumstantial evidence that what was being charged in premium was not the (actual) cost," he said.

The Inquirer tried to reach current GSIS president Winston Garcia for his side on the issue but was told he was out of town.

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2 Erap lawyers appointed envoys

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez and former Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero as ambassadors to Germany and Canada, respectively.

The President, according to her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, did not consider Rodriguez's and Tuquero's close association with deposed President Joseph Estrada as a liability to their appointments.

Rodriguez was until recently was also the lawyer and chief of staff of Estrada's wife, now opposition Sen. Luisa "Loi" Estrada.

As Senator Estrada's lawyer, Rodriguez had accused some administration candidates of cheating through vote padding and shaving in last May's senatorial elections.

This has incensed some administration senators who said they will work to block Rodriguez's appointment before the Commission on Appointments.

"He was the one who kept saying the administration's People Power Coalition cheated in the last elections," a neophyte senator said of Rodriguez.

The senators said they will dig up irregularities allegedly committed by Rodriguez in the immigration bureau.

When contacted by Senate reporters, however, Rodriguez opted not to make any comment.

Tiglao said the President made the Rodriguez appointment last week and has submitted his name to the Commission on Appointments.

"I'm not aware if he is still the chief of staff (of Senator Estrada) or if he has resigned," Tiglao said.

In answer to criticism from several civil society groups on Rodriguez's appointment, Tiglao said it was the Presidential Management Staff that screens prospective government appointees, taking feedback from civil society and lawyers' groups and even the diplomatic corps regarding the nominees.

"But in the end, it's the President who makes the decision. There is no group that can control her decisions," he said.

Malacañang did not make any official announcement about Rodriguez's and Tuquero's appointment. Tiglao only confirmed the appointments when asked about it by a reporter at yesterday's news briefing. *Juliet L. Javellana and Armand N. Nocum*

Erap lawyers hit postponement of arraignment

By Donna S. Cueto

LAWYERS for ousted President Joseph Estrada questioned yesterday the lack of a formal notice from the Sandiganbayan announcing the postponement of their client's arraignment last Wednesday on an illegal use of alias charge.

In a manifestation filed before the antigraft court, Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said the deposed chief executive was "resigned and ready to be picked up, in more formal attire, and his counsel were ready for the arraignment" on Wednesday.

But the Sandiganbayan issued a ruling after 4 p.m. on that day canceling the arraignment, which should have started earlier at 1 p.m.

The Sandiganbayan Third Division, which is hearing the case, said it postponed the arraignment because it first had to resolve a motion to quash the case filed by defense lawyers on May 25 and reiterated with another motion on Sept. 24.

The order to cancel the hearing last Wednesday, although issued after 4 p.m., had been dated Oct. 2, or the day before, and was signed by all three justices in the division—Anacleto Badoy Jr., Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde.

The order holding the arraignment in abeyance until the court shall have resolved the twin defense motions was sent to court sheriff Ed Urieta at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

No notice was given to either the defense or the prosecution on Tuesday or Wednesday.

On Monday, Oct. 1, at the opening of Estrada's trial for plunder, Badoy issued the order for the disgraced leader's arraignment on the illegal use of alias charge on Wednesday.

In the manifestation filed yesterday, Saguisag said the defense had "formally manifested" its readiness to attend the Oct. 3 arraignment that morning.

"We waited for the (police) escorts (for Estrada). None came," Saguisag said in the manifestation.

"We waited for word from this honorable court to the effect that the oral order last Monday was being recalled. None came as well," he said.

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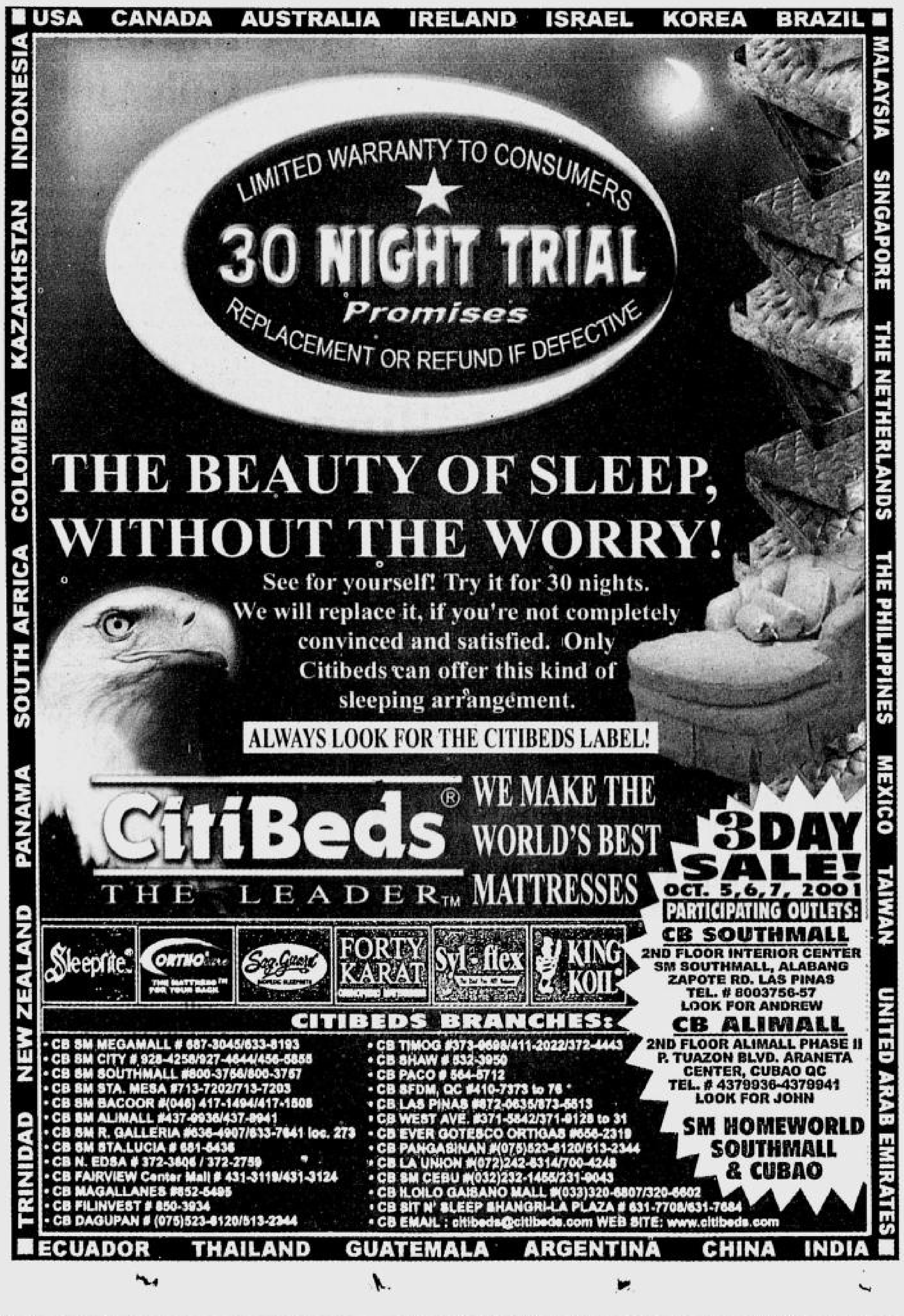
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Gov't-MILF peace talks in KL moved

PEACE talks between the Philippine government and Moro separatist rebels have been moved back at the request of Malaysia, the host country of the next round of negotiations, an official said yesterday.

The talks aimed at ending the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's 23-year rebellion was originally scheduled to begin on Monday in Kuala Lumpur, government chief negotiator Jesus Dureza said on television.

"But they said they (Malaysian authorities) were not yet ready, so they have asked (us) to move the date," Dureza said. "Probably on Oct. 15 or 22, but we are not sure yet of the final date."

No official reason was given for the delay, but Dureza said the problem could be "more of venue arrangements."

The delay would give both sides "more time to finish up on the organizational work on ceasefire committees," to prevent hostilities in the south, Dureza said.

Government negotiators were in constant communication with MILF leaders ahead of the resumption of negotiations, Dureza said.

He said much work has to be done to ensure that local monitoring committees are equipped to enforce a truce signed in August.

Both sides had accused each other of provoking clashes that left 36 MILF guerrillas and eight soldiers dead last week in Maguindanao.

Military airplanes and attack helicopters also bombarded MILF positions on Wednesday, although there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"We are confident that the local monitoring committees will be a big help in keeping peace in their respective areas," Dureza said. *AFP*

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

(Date of Issue: September 17, 2001)

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of **SOLANA, CAGAYAN** as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

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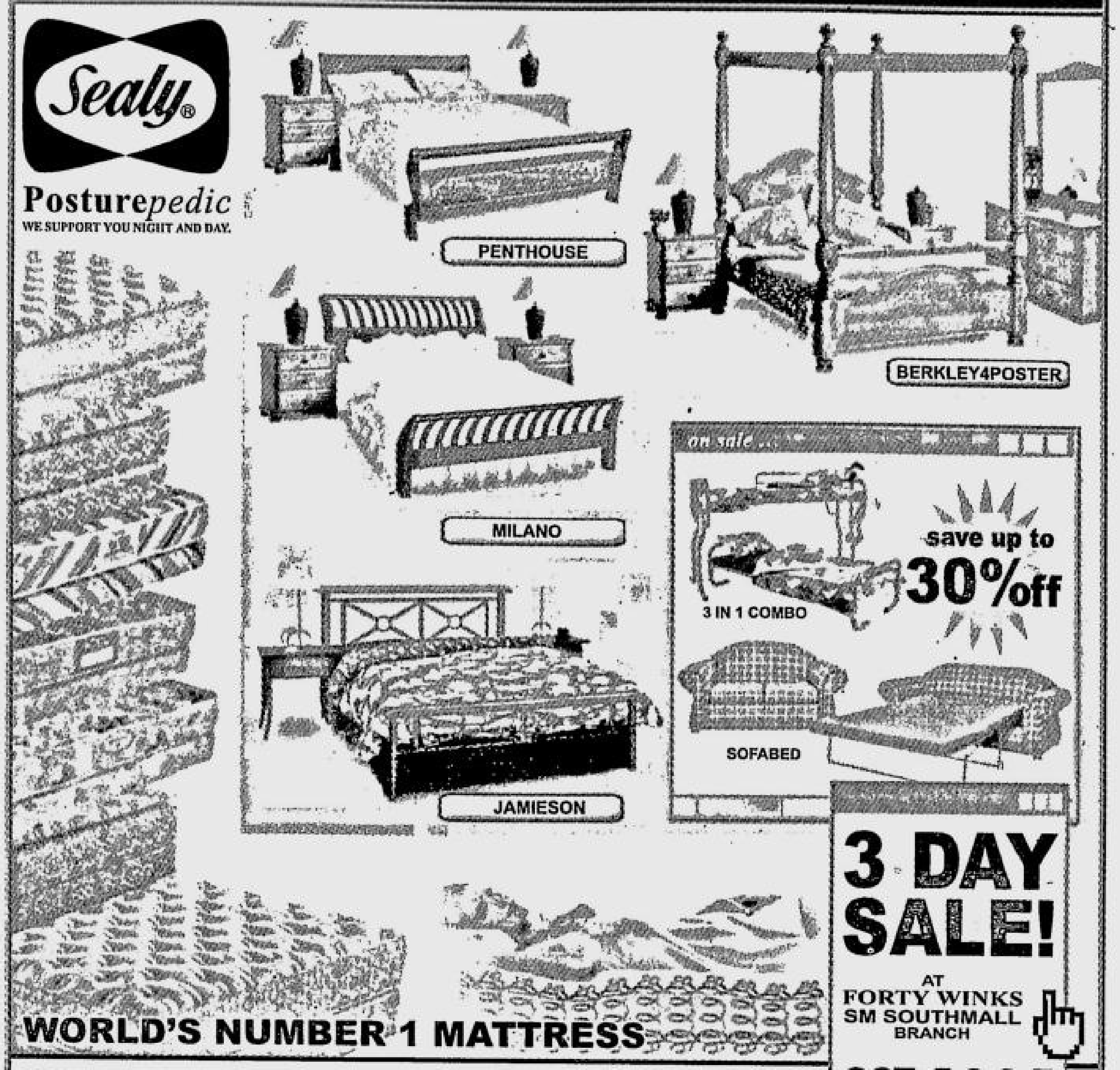
1 unit Vibratory Compactor	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Water Truck	-	Owned/Leased
2 units Concrete Mixer (1 bagger)	-	Owned
1 unit Concrete Screeder	-	Owned
1 unit Bar Cutter	-	Owned

3. Pre-qualification Forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING OFFICE**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the **Chairman, PBAC-ARCP**, Municipality of **Solana, Cagayan** not later than **October 1, 2001**.
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **October 25, 2001 at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor.** No bids will be accepted later than **2:00 PM of October 25, 2001**. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of **2.5 percent of the Total Bid Price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI – Sept. 28 & Oct. 5, 2001)



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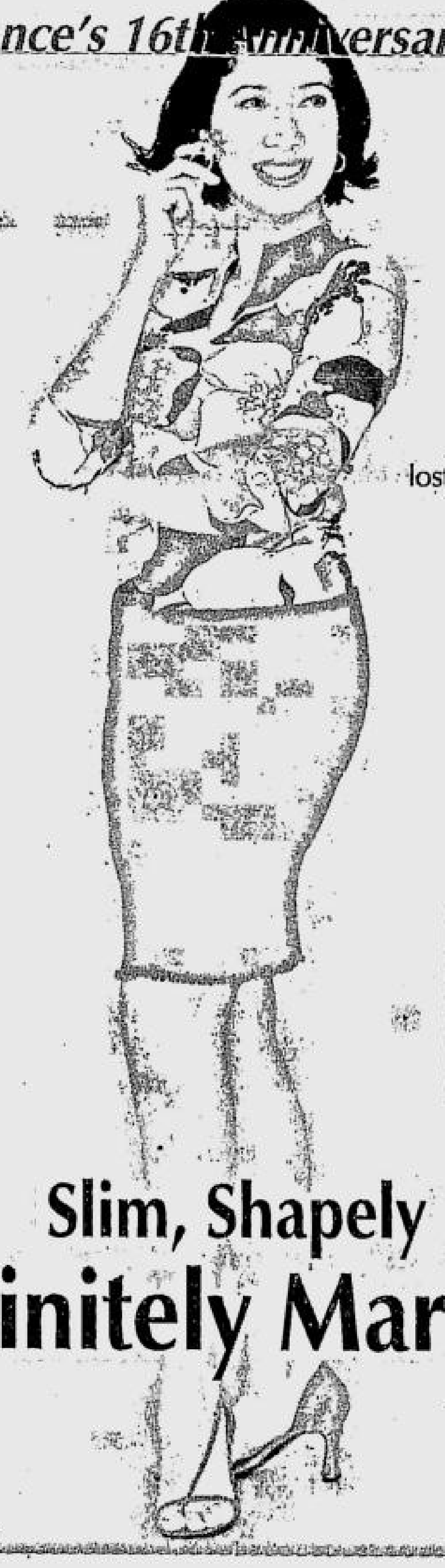

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Nani not yet ready to face Ping

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez might seek a rescheduling of his Senate showdown with Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Monday as the documents proving the existence of the senator's bank accounts abroad are not yet in his hands.

Perez's spokesperson, Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee, said the Department of Justice has yet to receive the documents from the United States Attorney General's Office that would purportedly show that Lacson has bank accounts in America.

As it is, the Senate has not formally informed Perez that he is slated to be the first witness in the opening hearing of its investigation into Lacson's alleged accounts, Teehankee said in an interview.

Although the DOJ anticipates a formal notice, Teehankee said Perez is likely to ask Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, to reset the hearing.

Barbers' committee is spearheading the investigation into Lacson's reported overseas accounts.

"As of now, Secretary Perez has not yet spoken to Senator Barbers. (But) I think they will discuss (resetting) to another date. (Perez) won't (appear at the Senate) on Monday," Teehankee said in Taglish.

"We are in touch with Senator Barbers (although) we have not yet received the notice for the Senate inquiry," he added.

Perez himself revealed in previous interviews that the DOJ was having difficulty getting the documents from the US Attorney General's Office since the latter is preoccupied with investigating the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington last month.

The DOJ had earlier asked several US agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the justice department, to help it obtain documentation proving the existence of Lacson's bank accounts in America.

Lacson stands accused of stashing millions of dollars in three countries—including Canada and Hong Kong—in proceeds from criminal activities by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

Lacson has dismissed Corpus' accusations as part of an orchestrated effort by his enemies to destroy him.

Barbers, in an interview on Wednesday, had said he expects Perez "to make good his promise to present documents from his foreign counterparts" to prove that the Lacson bank accounts exist.

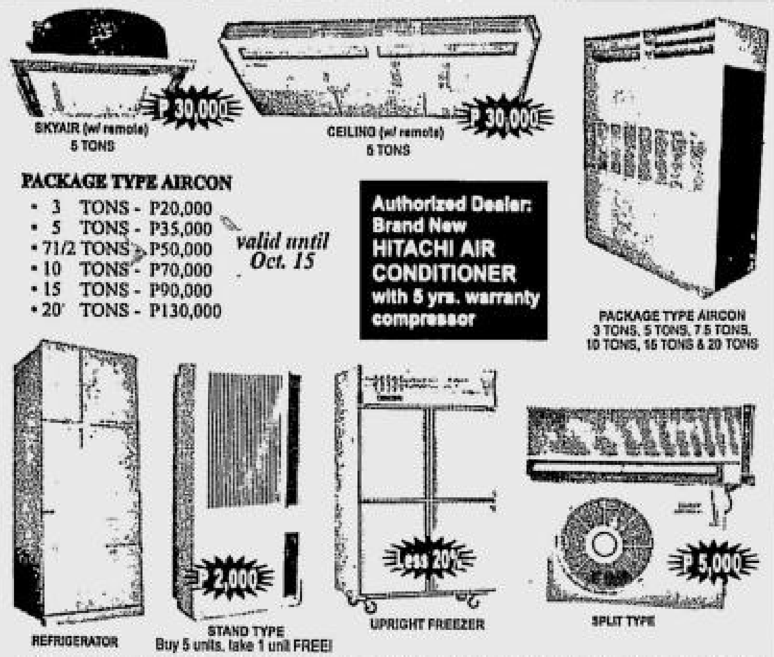
FVR defends 4 sons-in-law

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday said his four sons-in-law have categorically denied any involvement in illegal drugs including an alleged PNP drug operation in 1996.

Ramos was reacting to news reports on statements of police Supt. John Campos, who claimed that the son of a former president was involved in drugs in 1996. While Campos did not disclose the name of the "presidential son" during the Senate hearing, certain newspapers (not the INQUIRER) quoted Sen. Noli de Castro as saying that Campos was alluding to a son of Ramos.

In a press statement, the former president said he checked with his four sons-in-law, who denied the allegations. Senator De Castro also delivered a privilege speech at the Senate denying having identified any of Ramos' sons-in-law.

Former actor Lloyd Samartino who was named in one of the reports, has issued his own statement denying the claim. Another Ramos son-in-law, Alex Sembrano, made a similar denial in a separate statement.



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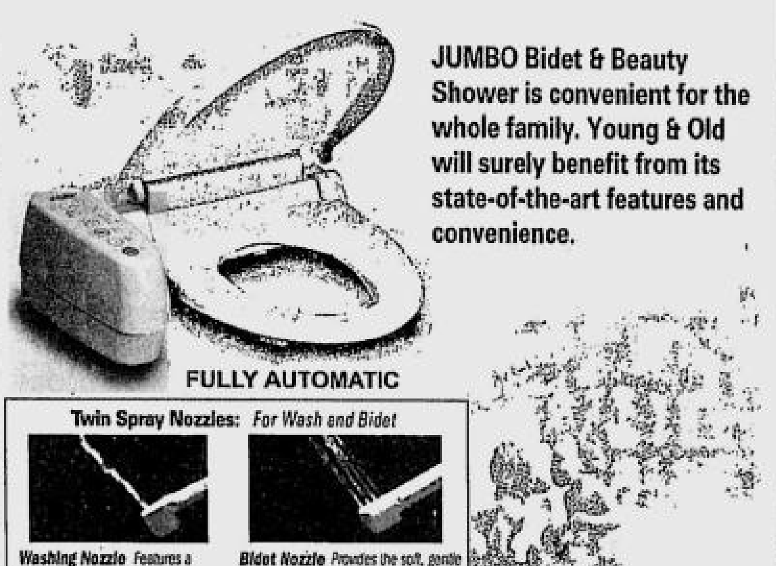

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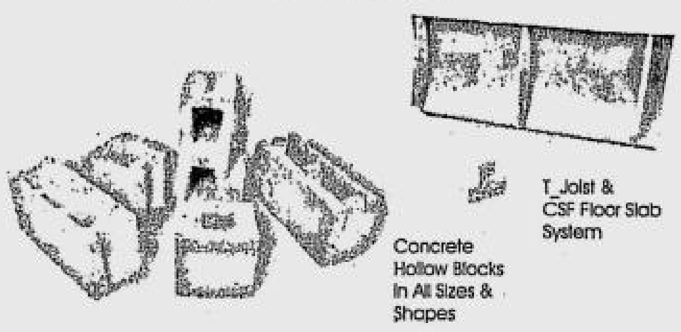

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Schedule of Free Seminars at PhilTRONICS 2001

DATE/TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
10 October		
11:00-12:00 noon	Solid Waste Mgmt. in the Electronics Industry by: Inca Plastics	Mr. Edgardo Cayton
2:00-3:00 p.m.	EK Pumps Features Seminar by: Iwaki Chemical Pumps	Mr. Noriaki Nishi
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Vacuum Technology with Vacuum Ejectors and Suctions Cups by: Pisco Pneumatic Equipment	Engr. Mel Vicencio
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Idec (Izumi) Systems & Control Components by: Idec Izumi	Mr. Ronnie Lee
11 October		
10:30-11:30 a.m. 2:00-3:00 p.m.	Automatic Optical Inspection X-Ray Inspection by: Maxtronix Inc.	Ms. Annie Fong Mr. Ch Liu
11:30-12:30 p.m.	Hibex MDA ICT Machine by: Von Roll Isola Asia Ltd. (Tech Plus Inds)	Mr. Wong Peng Sang
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Leica Digital Camera with Imaging System by: Maedan Enterprise	Mr. Dick Foo Mr. Herbert Funtanar
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Vision System for On-line Inspection of ICs/PCBs by: Benchmark Systems Pte. Ltd.	Mr. Kris Raghavan Mr. Senthil Nathan
12 October		
11:00-12:00 noon	Ultrasonic Cleaning/Welding by: Branson Ultrasonics	Branson Singapore
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Claval Automatic "Flow Control Valves"/ ABS Pumps by: Tytrade International	Mr. David Alexander/ John Sinfield
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Factory Automation Solution by: Yokogawa Phils., Inc.	Mr. Jonathan Esperida

Schedule of Free Seminars at Enviro-Tech Philippines 2001

October 10	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Technology Presentation Part I
October 11	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 1:30-4:30 p.m.	Technical Seminar co-organized by WEAP Technology Presentation Part 2

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Schedule of Free Seminars at Industry Search 2001

Date	Time	Seminars/Speakers
October 10	10:00 am-12:00 nn	Presentation by Unified Tooling Corp. by: Mr. Danny Ramillano/ Mr. Danilo Bayang
	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Presentation by DPL Semicon
October 11	10:00 am -12:00 nn	Flat Panel Product Demonstration by: Dai-Ichi Electronics Corp.
	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Airconditioning Products by: Uni-Air Philippines, Inc.
	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Industry and Customs Industry and the Environment by: Federation of Philippine Industries
October 12	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Enertech Boilers by: Enertech Systems
	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	2-D to 3-D Modelling by: CIM Technologies

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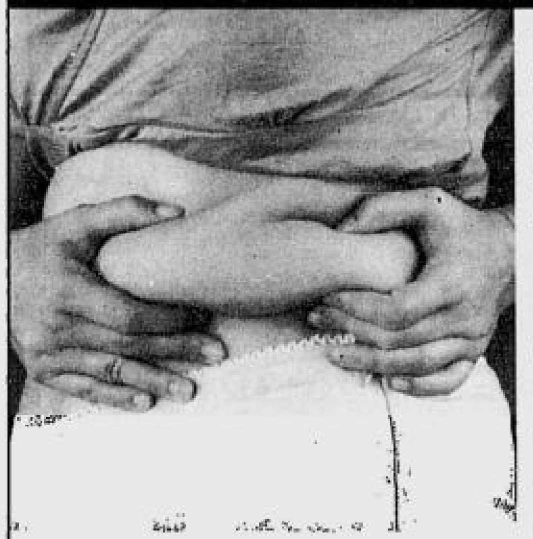

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Williamson DF, Pamuk E, Thun M et al. *Am J Epidemiol* 1995; 141 (12): 1128-1141
Colditz GA et al. *Ann Intern Med* 1995, 122 (7): 481-486

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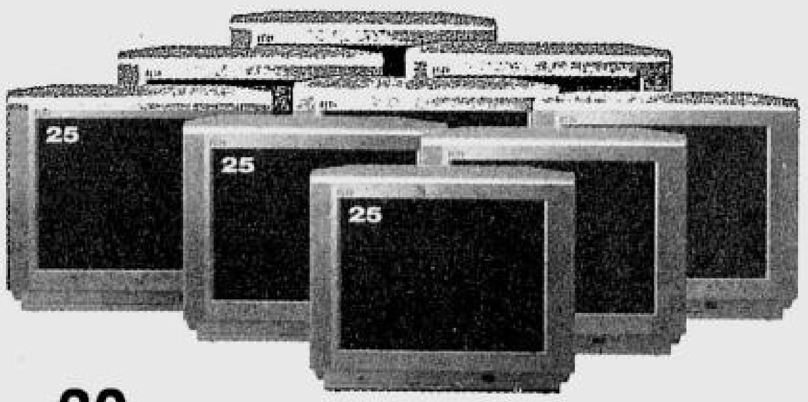

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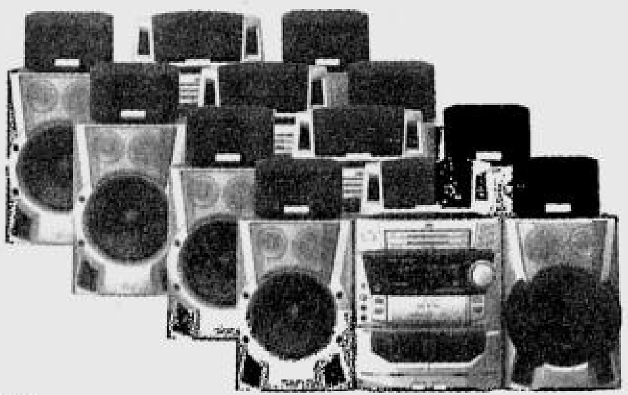

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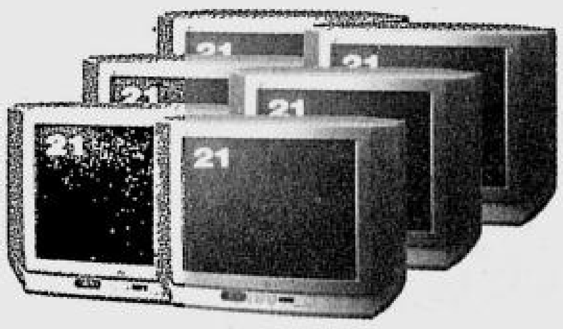

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THE LANDMARK

Per DTI-NCR Permit No A-1-0565, Series of 2001

Canadian hunger-striker deported

THE BUREAU of Immigration has deported a Canadian who led a hunger strike by foreign detainees at the BI jail in Bicutan in August, after a Makati court dismissed an estafa case filed against him by several credit card companies in the Philippines.

Raymond Jackson, a.k.a. Larry Charles Hardiman, was flown to Hong Kong at 1 p.m. on Wednesday aboard a Cathay Pacific flight en route to Canada. He had been tagged by US federal authorities as the brains of a credit card counterfeit syndicate, which had defrauded several banks of more than US$27 million.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the BI merely implemented the summary deportation order issued against Jackson by the BI Board of Commissioners on Dec. 11, 1997 after he was found guilty of using a fake American passport.

Despite the deportation order, however, Jackson had remained in detention due to the estafa cases he was facing before the Makati Regional Trial Court.

Virus spread faster in media–DOH

By Volt Contreras

EXAGGERATED and unfounded media reports spread faster than a virus, according to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit as he tried to explain how a falsely reported "epidemic" caused Metro Manila-wide alarm on Tuesday.

The remark drew chuckles during a House budget hearing yesterday, where Dayrit heaped the blame on certain broadcast media entities for airing high yet unverified numbers of private school pupils falling ill with what turned out to be just a mild strain of influenza that day.

The Health chief even offered an explanation why the health scare apparently spread faster among parents with children studying in private schools such as those in Mandaluyong, Pasig, and San Juan areas—and not public schools.

He noted that the first TV report of the alleged "outbreak" was delivered on Cable TV, which generally caters to the middle-class families who could afford to send children to expensive, private schools.

In a lighter tone, Dayrit said among the "conclusions" his department has arrived at from that episode was that "media reports are more transmissible than a real virus."

It would normally take a virus at least a month to infect about 40 percent of a school population, he said.

But Tuesday's scare was the result of a "normal… seasonal surge" in influenza incidence being "magnified and given focus by the media" and further circulated via text messages, he said.

The alarming news was further stoked by the public's growing anxiety over the threat of biochemical terrorism following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US, he said.

But Dayrit conceded that his department must share some of the blame.

"We could do better with our health advisory," he said, admitting that his health media campaign program got "too focused on dengue" and not much a similarly in-season ailment like the flu.

He said the health department now considers putting up a system of hotlines and call centers specifically tasked to address similar situations where "accurate information is needed."

Bill on nat'l ID system filed

HOUSE national defense committee chair Prospero Pichay has filed a bill for the establishment of a national identification card system under the administration of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID).

The Lakas representative, in a press statement, said the proposed Philippine Citizenship Identification System would supplant the various current government ID systems which do not provide adequate coverage for all citizens.

Thus, he said, every Filipino would get faster and better access to public services, while the government will have clearer fix on the demographics of the populace, translating to better planning and allocation of limited resources.

Under House Bill No. 3369, all Filipino citizens would hold a Filipino Citizenship ID upon reaching majority age. The proposed ID would contain personal information on the bearer, who would be assigned a permanent non-transferable ID number.

This ID would then be used in all government transactions, including acknowledgment of a document before a notary public, vying for and occupying a government position, and applying for and receiving any license, certificate, or permit from any public authority.

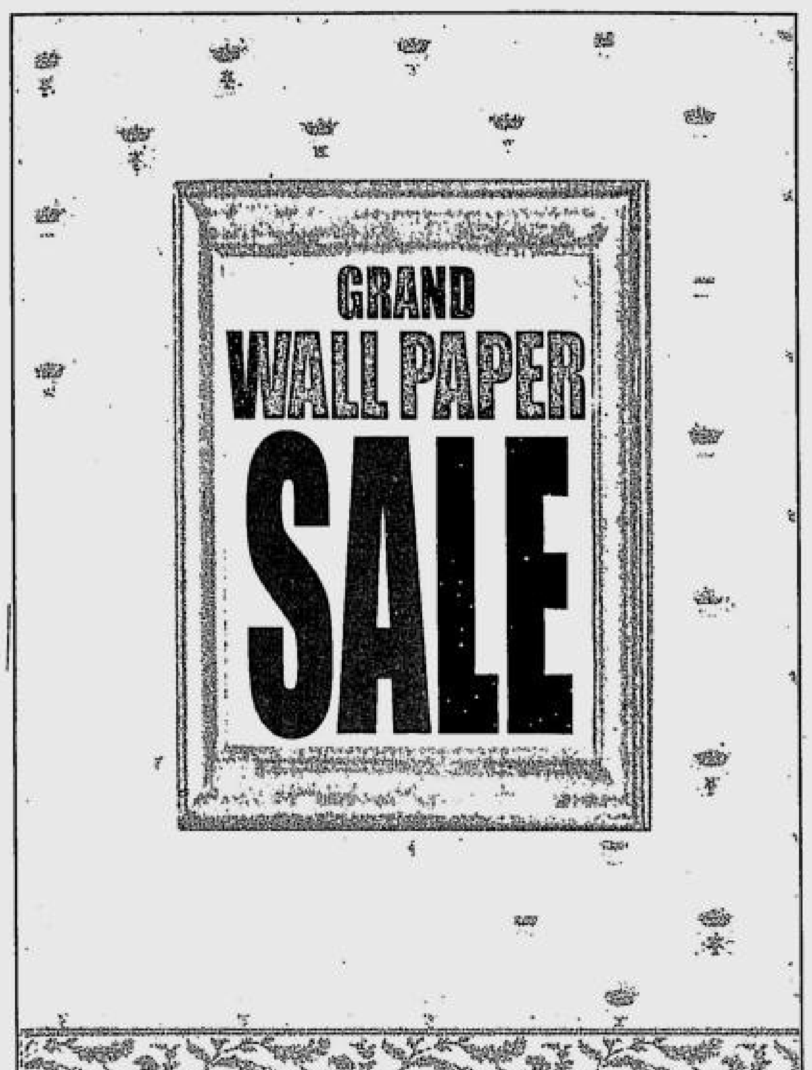
Joshi, 71

DR. Aida Alcala-Joshi, formerly of Daraga, Albay, and a US citizen for the last 30 years, died on Oct. 1 at her home in El Cerrito, California. She was 71.

She will be buried at the Sunset View Cemetery after the funeral Mass at the St. John the Baptist Catholic church at 11 a.m. Oct. 5, Friday (Oct. 6, Saturday, Manila time).

She is survived by her stepmother, Avelina Alcala, and sisters and brothers Alicia, Emma, Jose and Rudy.

Dr. Joshi, a daughter of former Daraga mayor Jose A. Alcala, recently retired from the University of San Francisco where she served full time in the Multiculture Program of the university since 1975. Together with her late husband, Dr. Sudhakar Arvind Joshi, she handled educational projects, including the Fulbright-Hays funded Group Projects abroad, especially India.



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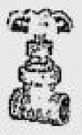

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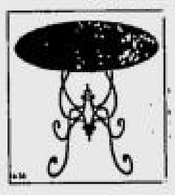

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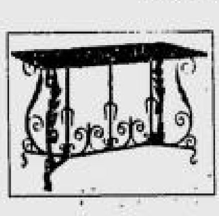

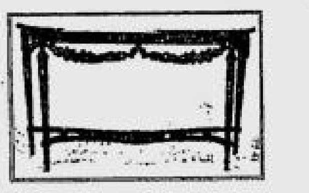

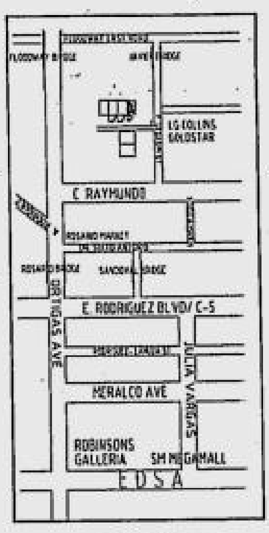

PHILHEALTH *Advisory*

06-001-2001

For Employers in the Private and Government Sectors

PLEASE be advised that effective January 1, 2002, a new contribution schedule will be implemented in the payment and collectio of contributions for all the employed members of the National Health Insurance Program (I IIP).

Below is the new contribution schedule to be shared equally by the employee-member and the employer:

Monthly Salary Bracket	Monthly Salary Range	Salary Base (SB)	Total Monthly Contribution	Personal Share (PS) (PS = SB x 1.25%)	Employer Share (ES) (ES = PS)	
1	P 3,499.99 and below	P 3,000.00	P 75.00	P 37.50	P 37.50	Effective January 1, 2001
2	P 3,500.00 to P 3,999.99	3,500.00	87.50	43.75	43.75	
3	P 4,000.00 to P 4,499.99	4,000.00	100.00	50.00	50.00	
4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
11	P 8,000.00 to P 8,499.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	Effective January 1, 2002
12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
14	P 9,500.00 to P 9,999.99	9,500.00	237.50	118.75	118.75	
15	P10,000.00 and up	10,000.00	250.00	125.00	125.00	

Payment of monthly premium contributions for both public and private sector employers is on or before the 10th of the month following the applicable month through any of the 28 PhilHealth Accredited Collecting Banks (ACBs) and their branches nearest you. Failure to deduct and/or to consequently remit said contributions to the Corporation shall make the employers liable under the penal provisions of the National Health Insurance Act (Art. X, RA 7875).

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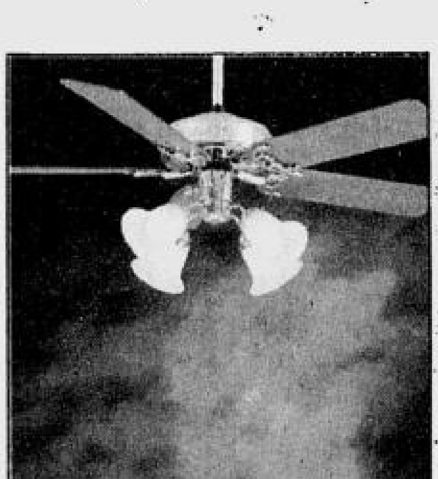

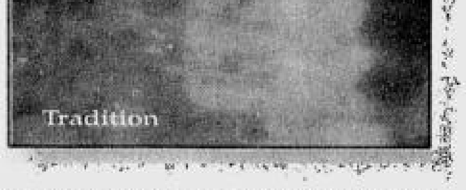

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Driver, Kuratong, RSG are suspects in Wong's killing

(From page A1)

So far, Barquilla's statements were "not convincing" enough, said Gualberto, chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Barquilla said the kidnappers left him when the gun they poked at his head twice failed to go off.

The driver vowed to cooperate with authorities to shed light on the kidnapping and murder of Wong, sister-in-law of Robert Cheng, owner of Uratex Foam Industries whose daughter was kidnapped last June inside the University of the Philippines campus in Quezon City.

Cheng's daughter was released after paying a ransom of P10 million.

Gualberto said Barquilla, who is in the custody of the CIDG, was not yet "off the hook" because there were "big questions" about his narration of events.

The driver could only remember the face of one of the suspects. At least seven suspects abducted Wong.

"He provided my men with an artist sketch of one of the suspects," the CIDG chief said. "We don't want to be misled so we are subjecting him to further investigation. We want to do away with any 'scripted' tales," Gualberto said.

Barquilla said the kidnappers shot and killed Wong and Burca when the businesswoman refused to pay the ransom demand of P30 million to P40 million.

The driver said they were abducted Monday in Manresa, Quezon City.

The bodies of Wong and Burca were found on Wednesday morning in Valenzuela.

Which is which?

Malacañang is saying that the Kuratong Baleleng bank robbery and kidnapping syndicate may have been responsible for the abduction and double murder, but the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-Kidnapping-for-Ransom Task Force (Naktaf) alleges that it could be the Red Scorpion Gang (RSG).

Tiglao said the President had ordered Director General Leandro Mendoza, the PNP chief, to verify "unverified reports" that remnants of the Kuratong Baleleng syndicate in Mindanao might have moved into Metro Manila and were responsible for the abduction and murder of Wong.

Tiglao said "initial reports from the PNP and even the military intelligence" pointed to members of the Kuratong Baleleng as suspects.

"Since last month, there has been an intensified effort to hunt down alleged members of the Kuratong Baleleng in Ozamiz who were involved in kidnapping. So there is an unverified report that they may have moved to Manila and were responsible for this case," Tiglao said.

Not all Kuratong Baleleng members have been neutralized, according to another Malacañang official. The official said the Soronda faction could still be operating.

Seven RSG members

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Naktaf chief, said his men were pursuing at least seven members of the RSG headed by Frederick Valencia @ Ambot group.

"The seven RSG members were identified as suspects in the kidnap for ransom of Wong and Burca," Ebdane said in a statement.

Ebdane said the suspects were also allegedly behind at least eight other kidnap-for-ransom cases.

Both the CIDG and the Naktaf deployed teams to run after the members of the RSG, which was formerly led by Alfredo "Joey" de Leon, who was gunned down in 1993 during an encounter with law enforcers in Bulacan.

At least two teams from the CIDG had been deployed to the province where the RSG members were believed to have fled after the killings, according to Gualberto.

He refused to provide the exact location of the RSG hideouts.

Gualberto said he gave his men 24 hours to find out if indeed Barquilla was part of the RSG so that he could be officially declared as one of the suspects.

Ebdane said the suspects had been positively linked with the RSG and the Sarabia kidnap-for-ransom group.

Ebdane said the remnants of the RSG tried to regroup in 1996 under Valencia's leadership.

"Records indicate that the Valencia Group has been in operation since 1996. They are believed to be responsible for at least nine incidents, including that of Wong's," Ebdane said. "They operate in Luzon from Bulacan to Quezon."

Besides the kidnapping of Wong, the other cases being blamed on the Valencia RSG included those of Sobremonte (Parañaque, January 1996); Malou Carag (Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, July 1997); Geraldine Ong (Barangay Paltok, Quezon City, October 1997); and Agustin Uy (Sta. Cruz, Manila, November 1997).

Clement Velasco (Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, May 10, 1998); Jose Sibal (Roces Avenue, Quezon City, September 1998); Frederick Mendoza and Remini Ofilas (Taft Avenue, Manila, 1998); and Mary Grace Cheng-Rosagas (UP Campus Diliman, Quezon City, June 18, 2001).

"The modus operandi of this group is the same as those who abducted Mark John Giga last Sept. 26," Ebdane said.

Emergency meeting

Ang See said on dzRH that she had called for an emergency meeting of the government's National Anti-Crime Commission to discuss a resurgence of kidnappings.

"You don't answer these problems with another set of statistics telling us that things have improved. They have not," she said. "Our economy is bleeding because of it."

Her group has listed 93 kidnappings in which 202 people have been abducted so far this year, including three Americans and 17 Filipinos seized by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group from a Palawan resort in May. More than half of the abductions occurred in Metro Manila, with the victims mostly wealthy Chinese-Filipinos.

Her group estimated kidnap gangs have collected about P141.8 million in ransom.

At least four other people remain in the hands of kidnap gangs, according to Ang See. *With a report from AP*

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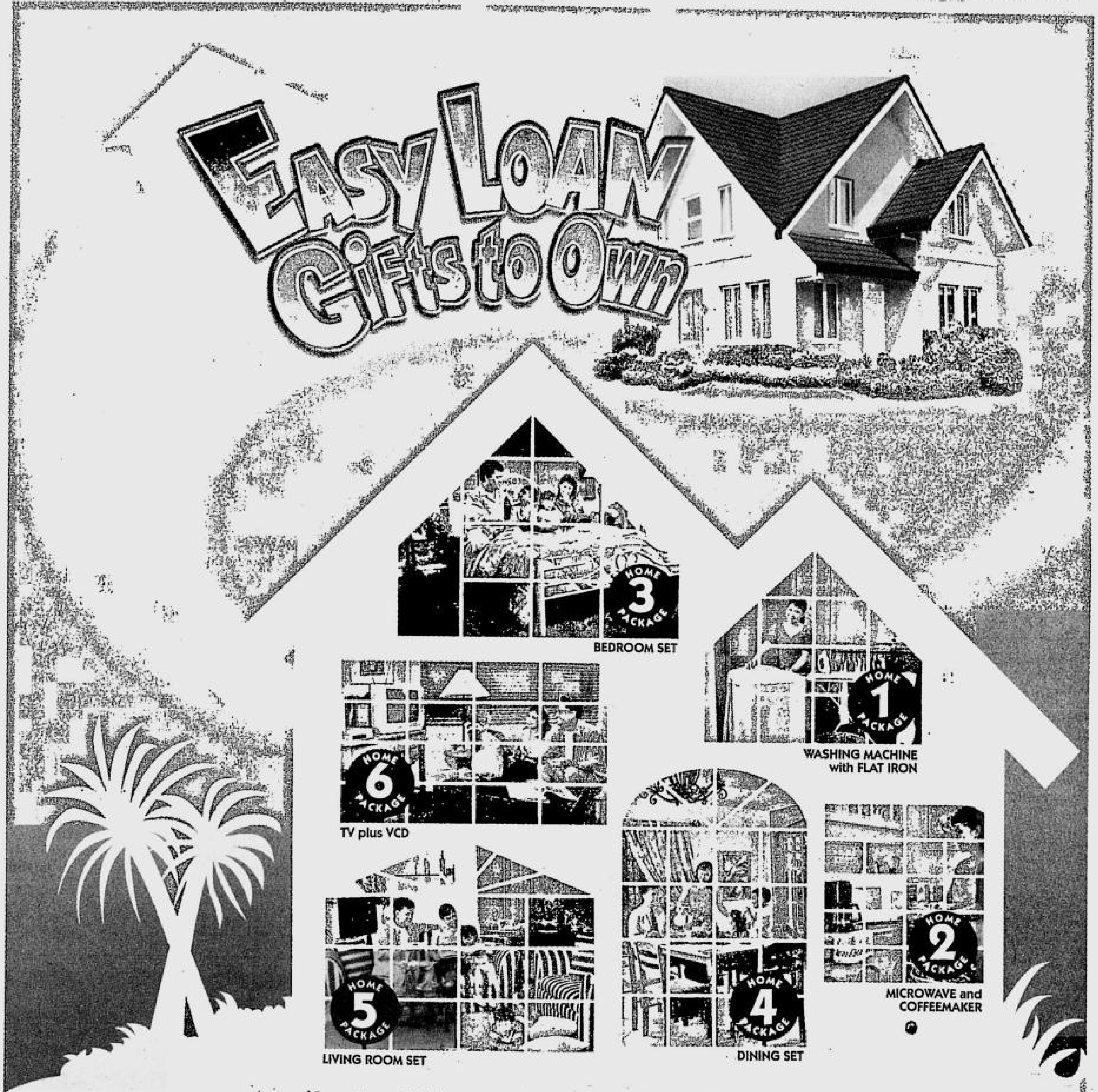

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₱ 10M and above	50.8 cm (20") TV plus VCD Player

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Parity and fairness

EDITORIAL

IT has often been said that working in government is a big sacrifice. True, if one works in the bureaucracy, where the higher one's position, the bigger is the financial loss if one considers the compensation the private sector pays. A department secretary, for instance, earns a basic monthly salary of P48,062 plus a total of P15,700 in allowances. That adds up to P63,762 monthly, an amount that is probably half of what a senior corporate executive is allowed to spend to entertain clients.

But then things aren't fair even in the public service. And we are not talking here about the president of the republic, who is paid about P50,000 monthly, earning a tenth of what the president of the Government Service Insurance System. (Many will willingly give up a fortune to be president of this country.) We are talking about the gross disparity in incomes of government workers doing the same thing.

Consider for example a lowly laborer, the lowest category of a government worker. If he works in a regular agency, the most he can earn is P7,041 monthly. But if he works for the GSIS, he is paid as much as P27,021 monthly. Unfair? No doubt about it. Equal pay for equal work is the universal standard for determining compensation, but GSIS officials apparently haven't heard of it.

A good case can be made for offering competitive rates to some technical people and managerial talents, which are in great demand in the private sector. But we have never heard about any shortage in laborers, utility men, or drivers. So why is the GSIS paying such employees almost four times what their counterparts in other government agencies receive?

For example, what is so very special about carrying letters in the GSIS that a messenger would be paid more than a middle-level manager in other government offices? A GSIS messenger receives P28,510 monthly in salary and allowances, while a division chief gets only P27,173. A high school graduate can handle a messengerial job competently, but civil service rules now require that a division chief should have a master's degree. Why then should the former earn more than the latter when both work for the same employer, the government?

And why should a mere clerk IV in the GSIS earn P35,585 monthly, an amount that is close to what a bureau director makes?

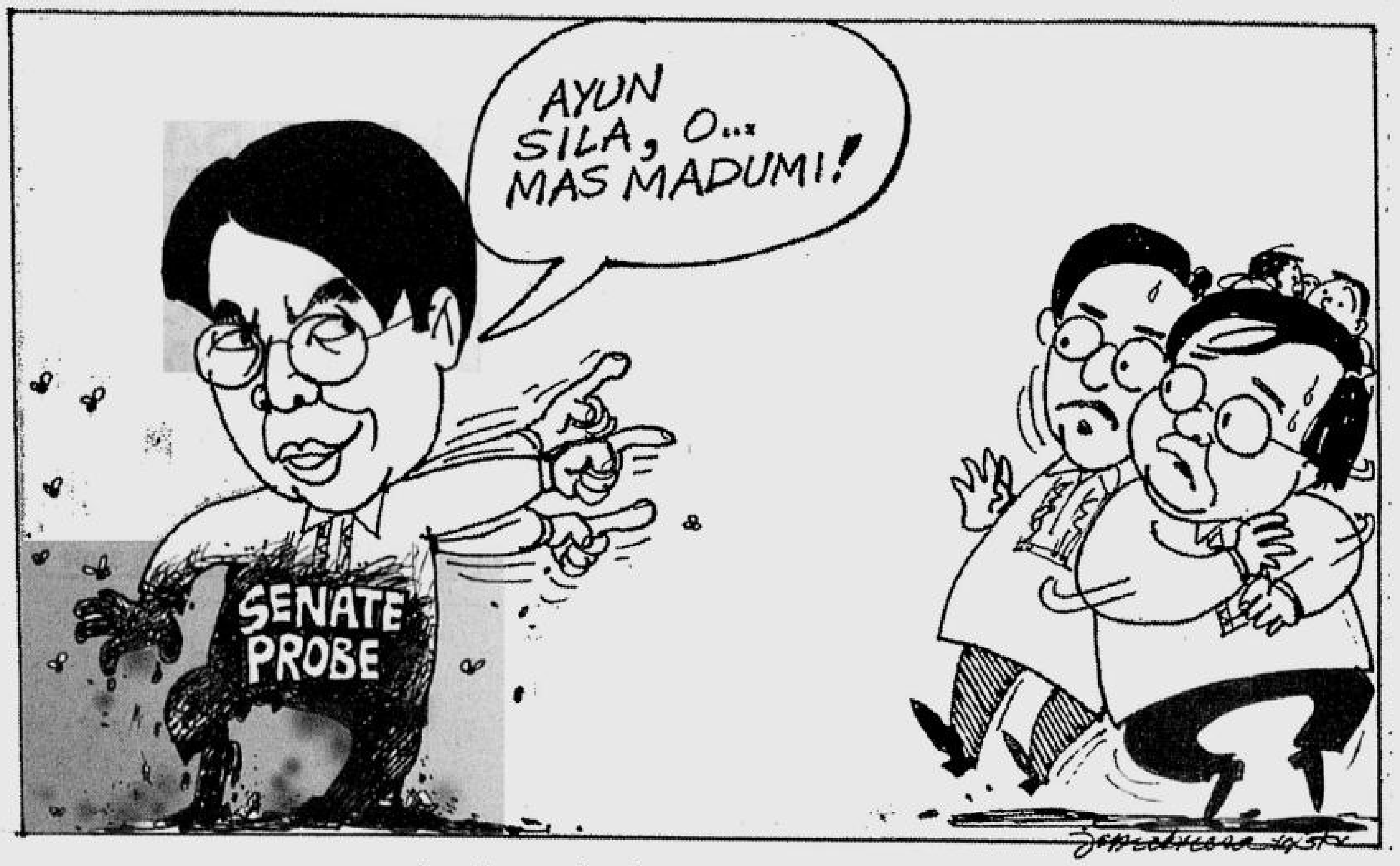
If they are after a good, clean and honest living, why do some of the best lawyers scramble for seats in the judiciary when there is much more to be made in the GSIS? A Supreme Court justice has a salary of P48,052 and a P14,700 allowance monthly. He can also spend as much as P230,000 annually for extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses. Meaning he grosses about P82,000 monthly. That may not be peanuts, but it is still ridiculously low compared to what a GSIS attorney VI makes, which is P143,047 monthly.

And then there are top officials who naturally get the highest compensation: P564,869 monthly for the GSIS president, P543,548 for the executive vice president, P300,672 for the senior vice president, and so on down the line. On top of which, the president and members of the board of trustees get a Christmas bonus amounting to P723,968, while the lower-ranking officials get proportionately lower benefits.

The culprit behind all this is the discretion given to the GSIS board to draw up its own compensation scheme. This was given as an exemption to the Salary Standardization Law to allow the GSIS to recruit and retain personnel whose skills are highly in demand in the job market. Obviously this has been abused, with the GSIS paying not only top salaries to employees and managers of all types but also giving them generous allowances and other benefits, plus more than double the retirement benefits other government officials get.

Such distortions in salaries and incomes cheapen and degrade the professional civil service. Congress and the administration ought to stop this before demoralization sets in and the best and brightest in the career service rush to the GSIS to apply for clerical positions. And to think that GSIS officials are filling their own pockets by dipping into the contributions of poorly compensated civil servants.

The call is not even for GSIS officials and employees to sacrifice. Congress should insist on parity and fairness in compensation among those who serve in government.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Neal H. Cruz

YESTERDAY, Oct. 4, was World Animal Day, so today I will write about animal rights. We are quick to protest when our human rights are violated but we forget that we are violating animal rights every day, every hour, every minute. Humans and animals have equal rights. After all, we were all created equal by God. But we are not treating animals as equals.

I suppose fully 90 percent of those who violate animal rights don't realize they're doing it. It is a matter of indifference, negligence, culture and social manners and morals. We think nothing of butchering animals and eating them. That's accepted even in polite society. But let's apply the golden rule. Put yourself in the place of animals. How would you like to be dragged into a slaughterhouse, your throat slit, your innards cut out, your body chopped into little pieces, cooked and eaten? Or how would you like to be hitched to a *carretela* or a cart and made to pull heavy loads under the hot sun or under driving rain and in floods the whole day? Horrible, isn't it? But we are doing this every day to animals.

It is now fashionable to go to seafood restaurants, look at fish, shrimps, lobsters and crabs swimming in aquariums. Then like Roman citizens giving the thumbs down on doomed gladiators, we point to several of them. The doomed animal are netted out of the aquariums, taken to the kitchen and cooked. The fish are luckier. At least, they're killed first before being cut up and cooked. But the shrimps, lobsters and crabs die a horrible death. They are cooked alive. If you are in the kitchen, you can hear the shrimps jumping inside the pot and the crabs scratching the bottom of the kettle as the water becomes hotter. Then they are served hot to the human beings to feast on. I don't know how people can feast on their fellow creatures that were alive only a few minutes before. God's creatures that never did them any wrong.

Think about this: a God-fearing, loving, kind, devoted housewife goes to the market to buy chicken and fish. There are frozen chicken and fish sold at the supermarket. But she goes to the stinky, dirty wet market because she wants to buy them "fresh." So she chooses a live chicken tied up and hanging upside down in a stall. She watches as the chicken's throat is slit and blood spurts out, the chicken dumped into a kettle of boiling water (sometimes the chicken is still alive and jumps out when it hits the hot water), its feathers plucked out, its innards cut out and its head and legs chopped off.

Then she goes to the fish stalls. There are all sorts of dead fish for sale. But she chooses a live mudfish or catfish. Why she chooses a live fish is hard to understand because she soon has the vendor bash their brains in with a club. The fish wriggles in its death spasm, and the vendor cuts its guts out. Then the loving mother takes home the carcasses of creatures that were alive only a few minutes before and feeds them to her children.

Even humans who supposedly love their pets abuse their beloved pets. Dogs are usually chained the whole day in the garage or kept in cages barely big enough for them to stand in. How would you like this to be done to you?

Dogs and cats are usually fed human food scraps, not the regular dog or cat food formulated for their metabolic needs. Foods that are good for humans are not necessarily good for animals. Some, like chocolate, are even poisonous to them. When sick, instead of taking the pets to the veterinarian (the owners don't want to spend for the vet bills), they are given drugs formulated for humans, like aspirin which is actually toxic to some animals, if they are given any medicine at all. Most of the time, the pets are left alone, to recover or to die.

In the case of cats, they are not sent to the vets to be spayed or neutered so there won't be a population explosion of cats. Instead, when a cat gives birth to a litter, the kittens are separated from the mother, taken far away from home and thrown into a garbage can or abandoned in a vacant lot, park or sidewalk. It costs only P300 for a cat to be spayed, even less for a tomcat to be neutered, but it is cheaper to just throw away the kittens. They grow into stray cats, scrounging for food in garbage cans, afflicted with disease and parasites, and generally living miserable lives.

Puppies can usually be sold or given away, so the population problem with dogs is not as bad as with cats. But the problem with dogs is they are so cute as puppies but become less cute the older they grow, especially if they are *askals* (*asong kalye*, a synonym for mongrels). That four-month-old puppy I wrote about last Friday which was abandoned in front of our house by two housemaids acting under orders of their employer is an example. The owner most likely got it as a cute puppy. As it grew older, it developed a case of mange and got thinner. Instead of taking it to the veterinarian, the owner—most probably a "well-educated," well-to-do professional—simply told his maids to throw it away. That is a clear abuse of the rights not only of the animal but of his neighbors now saddled with the chore of taking care of his dog.

I don't know how that owner can sleep at night with what he has done. I don't know how his children regard him now. I don't know if he has a conscience. He is a clear abuser of the rights of dogs.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Scouting is–cool

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(Last week, JASMS asked me to give a talk in their scout investiture ceremonies. I thought I'd share some thoughts there with readers. This is a translation from the Filipino.)

I DID not become a boy scout when I was in elementary school. But I've always envied scouts. First because of their smart uniforms. When you are a kid, you think people who wear uniforms like those are another breed entirely. Thank God our school was not coed—it was a parish school. Or else the boy scouts would have gotten all the girls.

I also envied the boy scouts because of their camping. What boy has not dreamed of pitching tent with the gang in the bosom of some forest? What boy has not dreamed of reliving the time of the early trailblazers? I was especially envious because I could not even attend the outings at school. I had asthma when I was a kid and being exposed to the cold or engaging in strenuous exercise was enough to send me gasping for breath. I lost the asthma before elementary was over, and I learned to like the cold. But I never learned to like exercise.

But above all, I envied scouts because they were exempted from the PMT, which was what we called CMT then, the precursor of college's ROTC. What boy has not dreamed of escaping the gulag that is the PMT? The scouts could not just dream about it, they could do it. If you were a scout in elementary school, you could choose to be an "Explorer" in high school.

Not only did the Explorers have better uniforms—dark green, which could be had from any tailor, in contrast to our dull khaki which could be had only from an official tailor who was determined to make us look like sacks—they had no drill sergeants who were determined to make them look like shit. To this day, I cannot understand why they say the PMT and ROTC build character. I cannot see how bawling out somebody in the open field and making him act like a robot will build his character. Even the robots in animés have minds of their own.

There was only one thing I did not envy the scouts for. And that was their image of being goody-goody and nice. The image of the boy scout that got stuck in my mind was someone who helped old ladies cross the street. In the street where I lived, that was not our hero. Our hero was the toughie.

We had our own version of Robin Padilla then. And that was a movie star named Joseph Estrada. He became famous for the role of Asiong Salonga, a toughie who was good in fighting and never backed out of one. He was the hero for us, the *bida* who was slightly *kontrabida*, the hero who was something of a rogue. Someone who had his collar turned up, wore a frown and sounded drunk when he spoke.

Apart from the movies, in our own street, a not very well-lit part of Naga City, there were toughies aplenty whom we idolized. They smoked cigarettes on the sides of their mouths, and never seemed to pull them out. They drank gin and beer and sang Elvis and the Platters to the accompaniment of a broken-down guitar. When they had one too many, their voices went one way and their guitar another, which earned them curses from the sleeping residents, which they laughingly responded to by singing even more loudly. Not a few of us dreamed of being like them someday.

It was only when I grew older that I realized how perverse that ambition was. But I do not know that everyone who grows older realizes that. Especially in this country, especially in these times.

Everywhere we look in this country, a lot of things are telling us that being decent and honest are effeminate while being wild and reckless are macho. Being helpful and charitable are square, while being selfish and cold are always *tama ang timpla*. Being nice is as passé as the kundiman, while being insufferable is as with-it as hip-hop.

Movies say so. Ads say so. Media say so. But more than that these things say so, life shows so. Everywhere around us, life shows that good is bad and bad is good, right is wrong and wrong is right. Cops and soldiers show that the proper thing to do is not to protect the citizens but to oppress them. Judges and legislators show that the proper thing to do is not to pass laws and enforce them but to skirt laws or violate them. Even a president who claims to be one of the poor and helps the poor has shown us only that the thing to do is delude the poor and rip off the poor.

We ourselves show ourselves this is so. We are not hired by a relative because we are not qualified, and we say he cannot be trusted. A friend does not enrich himself in office, and we say he is a fool, he doesn't think of his family—and us.

The reason the toughies of our time looked *bida* to us was that they seemed different from everybody else. Because what they did seemed harder than what everybody else did. It seemed so much different to turn up one's collar, to wear a frown and to drink every night. It seemed so much harder to steal, to rip off and to piss off the whole neighborhood, or country.

But the reality has turned out to be different. The reality has shown that they are not uncommon, they are more plentiful than *galunggong*—and even *galunggong* is no longer plentiful. The reality has shown that what they do is not hard at all, it is easier than texting—and even texting is not so easy, particularly for those of us who do not have cell phones. The rare breed, it turns out, is the one who keeps sane while everybody else acts crazily. The hard thing, it turns out, is to keep awake while everybody else sleeps.

The real toughie, it turns out, isn't the toughie. The real toughie is the one who embodies the names of the streets in Teachers Village—kind, keen, humble, helpful, charitable, compassionate. The real toughie is the boy or girl who helps old ladies cross the street. The real toughie is the boy or girl who sells Scout cookies to help raise funds for a project of the school of Miguel and the *parokya* of Edgar.

Nothing beats not Alaska but being a scout, whether you are 10 years old or 100. Being a scout is *siga*. Being a scout is—cool.

A saga of postponements rolls on

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SINCE April 4, when the Office of the Ombudsman filed plunder and related cases against deposed President Joseph Estrada with the Sandiganbayan, the cases have developed into a saga littered by postponements. They have also been punctuated by a rebellion, the May 1 storming of Malacañang by pro-Estrada mobs, provoked by his arrest on April 25.

All these incidents illustrate the vulnerability of the judicial system to infinite delays that go against the principle of a speedy trial and that can serve the purpose of using the delays to buy time until the arrival of a more lenient political climate for Estrada.

Between April 4 and last Wednesday, the efforts to arraign Estrada and to begin the plunder trial last Monday have been marked by lawyers' skirmishes over seemingly endless motions over legal technicalities that have kept the cases from being heard on the merits. It has been a field day for defense lawyers who have never run out of reasons, vapid or otherwise, to question procedures and to challenge the constitutionality of the plunder law, in the name of due process and fair trial. Most of the motions have come from the defense lawyers, although the prosecution has also been responsible for some of the delays on account of its bungling and incompetence—as in the case of their scattering the charges.

The net effect is that since the impeachment complaint against Estrada was filed in the House in October 2000, Estrada never made good his promise that he would answer corruption charges against him at the proper and legal venue. Estrada's allies in the House tried but failed to throw out the impeachment complaint. After the complaint was transmitted to the Senate, the first thing Estrada's lawyers did was to file a motion to quash which the presiding judge of the impeachment court, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., rejected.

The defense had tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to block the admission of the prosecution's evidence during the impeachment trial, until Jan. 16, when the Senate voted 11-10 not to open the second envelope containing alleged bank accounts of Estrada. The closure of the envelope aborted the conclusion of the impeachment trial and sparked the conflagration that swiftly led to the removal of Estrada from the presidency on Jan. 20. The question of his guilt or innocence was never resolved in that trial.

The pattern of evasion from arriving at the moment of truth for Estrada is being repeated in the plunder and related cases with the Sandiganbayan.

The most recent delay—and certainly not the last—took place last Wednesday when the Sandiganbayan failed to arraign Estrada on the charge of illegal use of an alias (stemming from the testimony of Clarissa Ocampo in the impeachment trial that she saw Estrada sign "Jose Velarde" on a bank document). Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. announced the postponement after the scheduled arraignment was dislocated by an "urgent manifestation" filed by Estrada's lawyers last Tuesday which not only reiterated their motion to quash the charges but also raised numerous issues to support the motion to quash.

On Monday, Estrada staged a cheap courtroom drama that pandered to the public gallery by appearing at the Sandiganbayan improperly dressed and wearing only slippers and without his lawyers on the first day of his trial on the plunder charge. The trial was billed as a historic event, but it became a farce.

Estrada said he appeared in court without his lawyers responding to the threat by the Ombudsman that he would be "bodily" lifted to ensure his presence. e wanted "to avoid a commotion," he said. The question is how long does it take to wear a pair of shoes? On that supposedly historic and landmark event, all his lawyers suddenly had a coincidence of excuses preventing them from appearing with their most important client. Either someone was sick or there were more important engagements. Maybe Estrada has to ask himself if his lawyers are now downgrading him. The lawyers had been informed of the date of the opening of the trial as early as last September. Suddenly, they developed collective amnesia and their logbooks apparently did not register the engagement.

Without his lawyers, Estrada denounced the prosecutors for "judicial terrorism." By appearing in casual clothes and in slippers, Estrada scarcely concealed his contempt and disrespect for the court whose decisions have been routinely lambasted by his lawyers who have been warned of unruly behavior in the courtroom.

There is, however, a compelling reason why the defense lawyers suddenly became a victim of collective amnesia and why their logbooks apparently did not post entries of the Oct. 1 trial date. The defense has filed with the Supreme Court a challenge to the constitutionality of the plunder law. In line with this, the defense sought the delay in the opening of the trial until the court hands down its decision.

Not only that. The defense had also filed a petition to restrain the Sandiganbayan from opening the trial, apparently in a move to extract a clue from the Supreme Court of how it would decide the case. Unfortunately for the defense, the court issued a resolution allowing the Sandiganbayan to go ahead with the trial.

The resolution appeared to have unhinged the defense. Last Wednesday, on the scheduled arraignment of Estrada on the charge of using false aliases, the lawyers were there. The strong backlash over their non-appearance on Monday appeared to have made them change tactics.

Estrada's own behavior in the Sandiganbayan last Monday reinforced the interpretation that Estrada never respected institutions during his presidency, and acted to undermine them. His ouster does not appear to have changed this mentality.

His lawyers have sought to disqualify Badoy from hearing some of the cases and there are few instances in criminal trials in this country where lawyers insult judges whose rulings they disagree with. The trial of Estrada is one of the few. One wonders whether it is the Estrada lawyers terrorizing the court rather than the other way around.

All about flu

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 1918 just as World War I was winding down, the "Spanish Influenza" epidemic swept through the globe. It is estimated that from 20-40 million people around the world died from the epidemic, which killed more people than all the battles of World War I and has been called "the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history."

A website on the influenza pandemic says that more people died of influenza in one year than during the four years of the Bubonic Plague (1347-1351), also known as the Black Death.

At its height, the "Spanish Flu" infected one-fifth of the world's population, with the most deaths occurring in India. Most of those who died were between the ages of 20-40 years, people in the prime of life. This was in itself unusual, as most deaths from influenza were (and still are) of young children and older people.

The disease was also fast acting, said to kill its victims within hours. One of the most widespread stories involved a group of four women who were playing bridge until deep into the night. The next morning, three of the women died from the flu. There were reports of people who started sneezing on their way to work in the morning and dying before they got home.

"Spanish Influenza," so-called because it made one of its earliest appearances in Spain where eight million died in the space of one month, spread rapidly around the globe because of a cruel confluence of history and technology. The "Great War" involved the massive movement of troops and armed personnel through large parts of the globe, while rapid improvements in transportation, including faster trains, ships and airplanes meant people could travel farther and faster. Thus the virus spread rapidly and efficiently.

* * *

AMONG THE FIRST fatalities of the flu epidemic of 1918 were soldiers who were particularly susceptible because they were either housed in close quarters or lived under miserable conditions in the trenches of the battlefields of World War I.

Some 675,000 Americans died in the epidemic, 10 times as many who died in the War. Half of the American soldiers who died in Europe died from the flu, while at home, so many people were dying that funerals had to be limited to 15 minutes.

There were many speculations on the origins of the "Spanish Influenza," with not a few claiming it must have been unleashed as some form of chemical or germ warfare. But this was quickly discounted as the epidemic was found to have claimed an equal number of victims on both sides of the conflict.

Whatever its origins, the epidemic soon petered out. The deadly strain either died out or mutated once more into a milder form of flu virus. Recently, the frozen, well-preserved body of a soldier who died from the "Spanish Influenza" was unearthed, and medical researchers are now using the most modern tools at their disposal to study the deadly virus and prevent a recurrence of the most devastating epidemic, before HIV-AIDS, that humanity has known.

* * *

INFLUENZA, Spanish or not, is usually a run-of-the-mill ailment. Most of us would have fallen ill of it at one time or another. We know the symptoms by now: sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, chills, fever, headache, achiness, fatigue and lack of appetite. Janet Zand, in her book "Smart Medicine for a Healthier Child," says treatment is "generally directed at alleviating symptoms, which can make the sufferer truly miserable."

Thus, bed rest, fever control and plenty of fluids are in order. The worst symptoms of flu are usually over in three-four days, but complications such as encephalitis, pneumonia, croup or seizures can occur. Very young children and folks over 65 years old are vulnerable, though. As are people with chronic respiratory ailments, such as asthma. A flu vaccine has been developed, and it's recommended for people at risk of complications. If you enjoy relatively good health, though, there's no reason to be afraid of the flu.

Every two or three years, however, the influenza virus changes in form and markers, resulting in a new strain that may set off a new epidemic, since people would not have developed immunity to it. This may have been what happened with the "Spanish Influenza" epidemic, and we must count ourselves lucky that no strain as deadly and fast-acting like it has been unleashed on us since.

* * *

SO what about the "panic attack" that besieged otherwise level-headed adults when a large number of students fell ill with flu-like symptoms a few days ago?

Doctors and health officials insist there was no basis for the alarms, especially the paranoia raised about this being part of a campaign of biological terrorism. As a guest in a TV talk show declared, if this was biological warfare, none of the guests "would be around talking about it on TV."

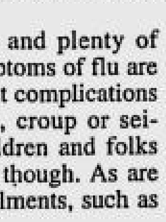
The Department of Health came down particularly hard on the media, particularly a giant radio and TV network, whose fervid coverage and commentary may have triggered the assault of worried parents on the gates of the concerned schools. The radio-TV anchors, in turn, were miffed that the "authorities" refused to take the bait.

My take on this is that in cases such as the "flu scare" in some Metro Manila schools, the best and safest approach is not to sound the alarm until health authorities themselves declare an emergency. "Stress" is said to trigger flu symptoms, said Health Secretary Manolet Dayrit, and given the stress of recent days, I won't be surprised if not a few parents come down with the flu, too.

Even in its benign form, flu manages to kill thousands of Filipinos, most of them children and older people. Maybe we should be sounding the alarm over the fact that the basic health infrastructure in this country is still so shoddy that people are dying from the most mild and ordinary illnesses.

Anthropology of our vocabulary

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

TINKERING with my sister's easel, I surveyed the range of colors available to her from commercially produced tubes of paint. I often imagine ancient painters grinding pigment, mixing their own colors from natural sources, but now all it takes is finger pressure to squeeze paint from a tube. These paint tubes enlarged my vocabulary because they are not arranged according to the simple colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Rather there is "burnt siena" that is different from "raw siena." There is "yellow ochre" that I presumed was the color of sunflowers till my sister described it viscerally as "*kulay tae*." There is "chromium oxide green" that sounds as industrial as my all-time favorite "titanium white." Imagine various shades of blue: ultramarine blue, cobalt blue and cerulean blue. These things made me realize that each profession has its own specialized vocabulary and tools.

Aside from paint, the painter's main tool (aside from talent or training) is a brush that comes in various sizes and shapes. House painters use a large, rough one known as a *brotsa* that also happens to be a vulgar sexual term. Painters of pictures have more delicate instruments like "camel-hair" brushes that are actually made from squirrel tails. When the late E. Aguilar Cruz took a break from his easel, he would pick up a violin and annoyed the neighbors with a high-pitched screeching sound. I knew the bow was made from "cat gut," what I did not know was that this actually came from the intestines of sheep.

Before this column turns into something for Bong Barrameda, I must explain that our world grows richer if we take the trouble to see AND notice. Doing so will help us realize, for example, that India ink is actually from China and that the "blackboards" used in classrooms today are actually green. Roasted Beijing duck is not always from China. Pancit Canton and Lumpiang Shanghai are Philippine rather than Chinese culinary inventions.

As a "failed anthropologist," I remain curious, always observing my surroundings trying to connect one disjointed thing with another in the hope of finding the thread of a thought or a story. Walking around Ermita with my favorite antique dealer, Nora Ignacio of Casa Tesoro, I wondered aloud why everyone ignores the fact that the area which used to be our red-light district was formerly a "hermitage." The girlie bars have since moved from Ermita to Makati.

During the Spanish colonial period, two words referred to prostitutes and they both begin with "p." We are of course familiar with the four-letter word that I will not repeat here lest the INQUIRER's reader's advocate gets swamped with complaints for the words I use freely in this column. The four-letter word that begins with "p" is too vulgar to be used in polite society yet remains in our vocabulary as an expletive that produces instant relief to those who use it. The euphemism for prostitute used to be *paloma* from the phrase *paloma de bajo vuelo* or in Tagalog, *kalapating mababa ang lipad*. These "doves" used to roost in a Tondo district aptly called Palomar or the "pigeon coup."

During the American period, the palomas flew from Palomar to a Sampaloc street called Gardenia (now renamed Licerio Geronimo after the Filipino general who killed enemy General Lawton). If I am not mistaken, there is still a Gardenia motel somewhere whose owner had a historical sense and used it to capitalize on Gardenia's racy allusions. Pre-war Manila Mayor Lukban rounded up the prostitutes propagating on Gardenia Street and deported them to Davao. That has become a landmark case I will discuss in another column.

Gardenia, according to my mother, is a shrub that grows in the tropics and has fragrant, white blossoms which in her time were popularly used as a corsage. In the Philippines, the gardenia is more popularly known as *rosal*. As I dug up material on the red-light district on Gardenia, some informants wanted to know why a red-light district could not be associated with a more fitting Philippine flower, one with a strong nocturnal fragrance known as *dama de noche* or "lady of the night."

Words change meanings according to time and usage and one of the things I dream of compiling is a historical dictionary for Tagalog (or Filipino) just to record all these changes. For example, I have memories of my mother directing the driver from the backseat using what I thought were Spanish terms but used in a distinctly Filipino way. *Silla* (chair) was an order to turn left while *mano* (right) meant right. *Carga de mano* and *carga silla* meant stop on the right and left respectively.

In the old days when Filipinos commuted in carriages, passengers took the backseat and the driver or *cochero* sat on a small stool in front. *Cocheros* guided the horse with reins on his right hand while resting the left hand on his seat, hence *mano* became the colloquial word for "right" and *silla* the word for "left." In Spanish, one uses *izquierda* (left) and *derecho* (right). Straight ahead is *todo derecho* which we corrupted into *dire-direcho* or plain *derecho*. Look up the dictionary word for "salvage" and you will see that Filipinos use it differently from standard English. The words we speak opens up our world if only we care to see and notice.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Are we still capable of true compassion for the poor?

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos

Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE GLOBAL recession unleashed by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States is taking its toll on our collective sense of well-being. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is bravely trying to convince the international community that the Philippine economy is not likely to be severely affected by the US recession since the United States is not our biggest investor. It is his job to say these things and his high credibility is making his heroic effort almost convincing. Yet we know in our hearts that we are looking at very hard times ahead. Even the excitement and agitation over the Senate hearings on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged illegal activities and former President Estrada's plunder case seem to be giving way to a heavy feeling that we have in our midst a more serious problem that is sure to affect us more directly and more severely.

The inescapable reality staring us in the face is the domestic economic slowdown and all that this implies for our people especially the poor. This is nothing to be taken lightly. The images and strident voices of the May 1 crowds attacking the gates of Malacañang must surely be in our memories still. Yet we seem to have forgotten its most compelling message. The poor, whose numbers are growing by the day, are getting restless. They are desperate and they demand relief from their burdens. We simply cannot go on living as a nation the way we did in the past forgetting that May 1 happened or rationalizing it that the people were just paid to do what they did. If we did this, it would be self-deception.

It is not just the poor who are getting demoralized. A number of my officemates have reported hearing from some acquaintances and relatives of how they are preparing to migrate to some foreign land such as the United States (despite the heightened prospects of terrorist attacks there), Canada and Australia. Confidence in a comfortable and decent future in this country is dimming among our middle class and young people. Our well-trained professionals are leaving for greener pastures in ever-higher numbers. Those with the means to take along their families are selling their pieces of property to take a chance at a better life in a foreign country. Our collective morale as a nation has never been so low.

Indeed what we have is not just an economic crisis but a moral-psychological one, a crisis of confidence not just in our government but in ourselves. We suffer from self-doubt—whether we as a nation have what it takes to create a better future for ourselves and for our children. It strikes at the heart of our collective identity and national spirit.

So in a way I believe that our approach to our present economic situation must likewise be driven by a deeper moral and psychological desire for survival. We cannot hope to weather this crisis economically and politically without paying serious attention to the sufferings of the poor. First we must be capable of real compassion.

In current discussions about the wage increases being pressed by workers, instead of hearing the usual argument from employers that we need to save jobs rather than increase wages, perhaps the workers want to see how far their employers are willing to make sacrifices in their own lifestyles and spending habits so that jobs are saved and modest wage increases can be granted. Surely it does not help that workers get to know about the fat salaries and huge expense accounts being given to their executives while they must struggle to make ends meet with their measly pay. Can employers and owners of businesses announce a reduction in their own salaries, benefits and bonuses in an act of compassion and solidarity? Government can set an example for this by making the highly paid officials of the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and other state-owned corporations take cuts in their salaries and benefits.

While it is not only the work of government to try to bring relief to the poor, it must lead the way by directing its political will toward real acts of compassion and solidarity with the poor.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sought to do this when she offered her husband's family's lands in Negros to be distributed to landless farmers under the Agrarian Reform Program. This is a good gesture although the Department of Agrarian Reform still needs to work harder and faster to make this promise a reality. When promises like this which look simple enough do not materialize, the people lose hope and become cynical.

This week, a group of farmers from Negros will be starting a three-week camp out at the DAR to press for the distribution of the vast hacienda lands of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. They are farmworkers tilling the 5,000 hectares in 11 haciendas owned by Cojuangco in Negros Occidental.

By any standards, and all the legal and technical arguments notwithstanding, it is today immoral and unjustifiable for a family to own and control 5,000 hectares of productive agricultural land in a nation with millions of landless farmers and farmworkers. Yet we all know who Danding Cojuangco is and what kind of power he holds. He has survived two deposed presidents with whom he was closely associated as a crony and two other presidents who, though unfriendly, could do nothing to diminish his vast business empire. Under this administration, he has struck a deal with the ruling party and the powerful speaker of the House for his Nationalist People's Coalition to lend support to the administration in exchange for favors we can only surmise.

In these desperate and hard times, the poor are just waiting for a sign that their government and the rich people of this land are capable of showing them some compassion.

(We extend our deepest appreciation to the many generous and compassionate people who responded to Fr. John Carroll's column some weeks back and gave donations of cash and milk for the feeding program in Payatas.)

THEY SAID

Prosecute, not persecute

"I will not persecute anyone but I will not hesitate to prosecute anyone against whom there is evidence."

—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez

Bitter fate

"From mayor to senator, vice president, president and now, a prisoner. I never imagined such a bitter fate will befall me."

—Former President Joseph Estrada

Focused on the future

"While nothing can take away from the past, I am firmly focused on the future and the competitive challenge ahead of me."

—Comebacking basketball superstar Michael Jordan

True goal

"It can't be stressed enough that everybody who's waiting for military action needs to rethink this thing. We don't believe in just demonstrating that our military is capable of bombing."

—Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense on the United States' focus on finding Osama bin Laden first

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LETTERS

Remember the lessons of Balangiga

FIVE hundred ordinary Filipino villagers armed mostly with bolos attacked Company C of the 9th US Infantry in Balangiga, Samar on Sept. 28, a hundred years ago. It might be useful for the United States and its allies to remember Balangiga and the devastating retaliation that followed, as they move forward in their war on terrorism. The parallels are striking.

In response to the attack that killed 54 soldiers, American Gen. Jacob Smith ordered that Samar be turned into a "howling wilderness." Prof. Rolando Borrinaga of the University of the Philippines, Leyte, estimates 50,000 Filipinos died, either in direct fighting or of the disease and malnutrition that resulted. Samar had about 200,000 people then. The Americans destroyed the economy: villages, food stores and fields were burned; work animals and fishing boats were destroyed.

The American soldiers in Balangiga never understood the depth of the hatred the Filipinos had for them, though they had destroyed the small town's food supply and jailed 80 men to do slave labor. The soldiers prepared for attack from outside, from the revolutionary forces of Gen. Vicente Lukban, but never suspected the local people themselves would attack. They simply didn't understand the depth of feeling in the townspeople.

How much, we may ask, does the West understand of Islam and the injustices Muslims feel, and their fear of the West's materialism, greed and what they see as disrespect for traditional values? Very little, it would seem. Pope John Paul II has called the West's materialism and careless attitude to life a "culture of death" and few have understood him either. As recently as Sept. 30 he told bishops in Rome, "to point out with courage the social sins tied to consumerism, to hedonism, to economies which produce an unacceptable divide between luxury and misery."

In times of anger when the thirst for vengeance is high, some groups are able to take advantage of the situation to advance their own agenda. The US military in the Philippines did so, according to Borrinaga, Bob Couttie, an English journalist, and Jean Wall-Fee, the daughter of one of the American survivors of the attack who have worked closely together on the history of Balangiga. There was a struggle between Governor General William Howard Taft who wanted to use more humane methods to control the population and the military who favored the mailed-fist approach. The military used Balangiga as a reason for doing things their way. As early as three days after the attack, a certain Colonel Hughes in Cebu was calling for turning Samar into a desert. The British ambassador later said the Americans would not let British traders into Samar because they didn't want eyewitnesses to the horrors committed by the US Army.

What agenda will be advanced today in this time of international passion? What old causes, fears and special interests will be served under the flag of anti-terrorism?

People who know Samar wonder if the province has ever recovered. The American revenge carried on for years. The parish priest of Balangiga who knew of the attack but left town before it took place was later tortured by the US Army to give information. The great-grandson of Pedro Abit, one of the Balangiga attackers, said many of them changed their names to avoid American retribution in later years. It was a Pyrrhic victory. The Americans were left with a sullen impoverished people on their hands who would never forget. Will the war on terrorism end the same way?

There are indescribable distances in many ways between Balangiga that had only 5,000 residents at the time of the attack, Samar itself and the World Trade Center in New York where over 50,000 people worked each day. History however has made them the same.—**DENIS MURPHY, Urban Poor Associates, 80-A Malakas St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City**

Breast cancer and contraception

THE DEPARTMENT of Health is promoting October as Breast Cancer Awareness month. On Oct. 7, a 5-kilometer run/walk strictly by women will be staged to make a strong statement against breast cancer. This campaign is timely as the Philippines has the second highest breast cancer incidence in Asia, next only to Israel. But instead of promoting breast cancer awareness, wouldn't the DOH be more effective if it stops promoting contraceptives, which, along with abortion, are two of the causes of breast cancer?

How ironic that those championing women victims of breast cancer are the ones causing it with their active promotion of carcinogenic contraceptives and abortifacients. The alarming growth of breast cancer among women is not confined to the Philippines alone. It is a worldwide phenomenon. The common denominator is widespread use of contraceptives and abortion. Since the early 1980s, many medical researchers and institutions abroad have confirmed that oral contraceptives is one of two principal causes of breast and cervical cancer among women. The other is abortion.

A very authoritative book written by John Wilks B. Pharm. M.P.S., "A Consumer's Guide to the Pill and Other Drugs" says it all. The book has cited numerous researches clearly and directly linking the pill to breast cancer among women. Data from the book reveal that the New South Wales (Australia) Cancer Council reported a 600 percent increase in breast cancer incidence from 1972 to 1993. In Victoria, incidence rate increased from 61.7 cases per 100,000 women in 1982 to 85 cases in 1995. The probability of women getting breast cancer is 1 in 8 in the United States; 1 in 16 in Australia; and 1 in 50 in Japan. The reason for the low rate in Japan is that the pill was only legalized in Japan in 1999.—**JAIME B. LEORNAS, assistant executive director, Pro-Life Philippines Foundation Inc., San Lorenzo Ruiz Center, 2486 Legarda St., Sampaloc, Manila**

Conditions for banning asbestos

ALLOW me to respond to recent media statements of the Foundation for National Development (FND) and the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), urging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to phase out asbestos as a component of construction materials,

I am pleased to inform the public that the DENR recently issued Administrative Order No. 2000-02 which is a Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Asbestos in compliance with Republic Act 6969 or the Toxic Substances and Hazardous Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

This order was first crafted in 1995 but was only approved on Jan. 16, 2000 after exhaustive nationwide discussions and consultations with affected industries, communities, the academe and all other stakeholders.

DAO 2000-02 was the product of collaborative efforts of an inter-agency technical advisory council from the Department of Trade and Industry-Board of Investments (DTI-BOI), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Agriculture (DA).

Asbestos is a fibrous, noncombustible, naturally occurring mineral compound of magnesium silicate mixed with varying quantities of silicates of calcium and iron. Its manufacture, export and import have been banned in some countries and have been regulated by the United States.

While it is commonly known to cause lung cancer and other lung ailments and is listed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a known human carcinogen, it is also a fact that asbestos-related diseases occur only when there is a high concentration of free fibers in the air.

There is no proven risk to health when the fiber is locked into the integral structure of the material and cannot be released. The DOLE-OSHC sets an asbestos standard of 2 fibers per cubic centimeters of air.

Since July last year, the DENR Order prohibits the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials in the manufacture of toys, pipe and boiler lagging, low density jointing compounds, untreated textile products, flooring felt and covering; rollboard, specialty, commercial and corrugated paper; insulation or similar products; other low-density products and new uses of asbestos.

The use of asbestos has been limited to fireproofing clothing, roofing felts or related products, asbestos cement roofing and flat sheet, friction materials, high temperature textile products, gaskets, mechanical packing materials, high-grade electrical paper, battery separators and other high density products.

While this order does not totally ban asbestos, it has initially restricted and regulated the use and entry into the country of products that use chrysotile-white asbestos and other asbestos-containing materials while totally banning crucidolite-blue and amosite-brown asbestos types.

Total elimination of asbestos use will be made once a feasible, cheap, environmentally safe, socially and technically acceptable alternative material has been identified.

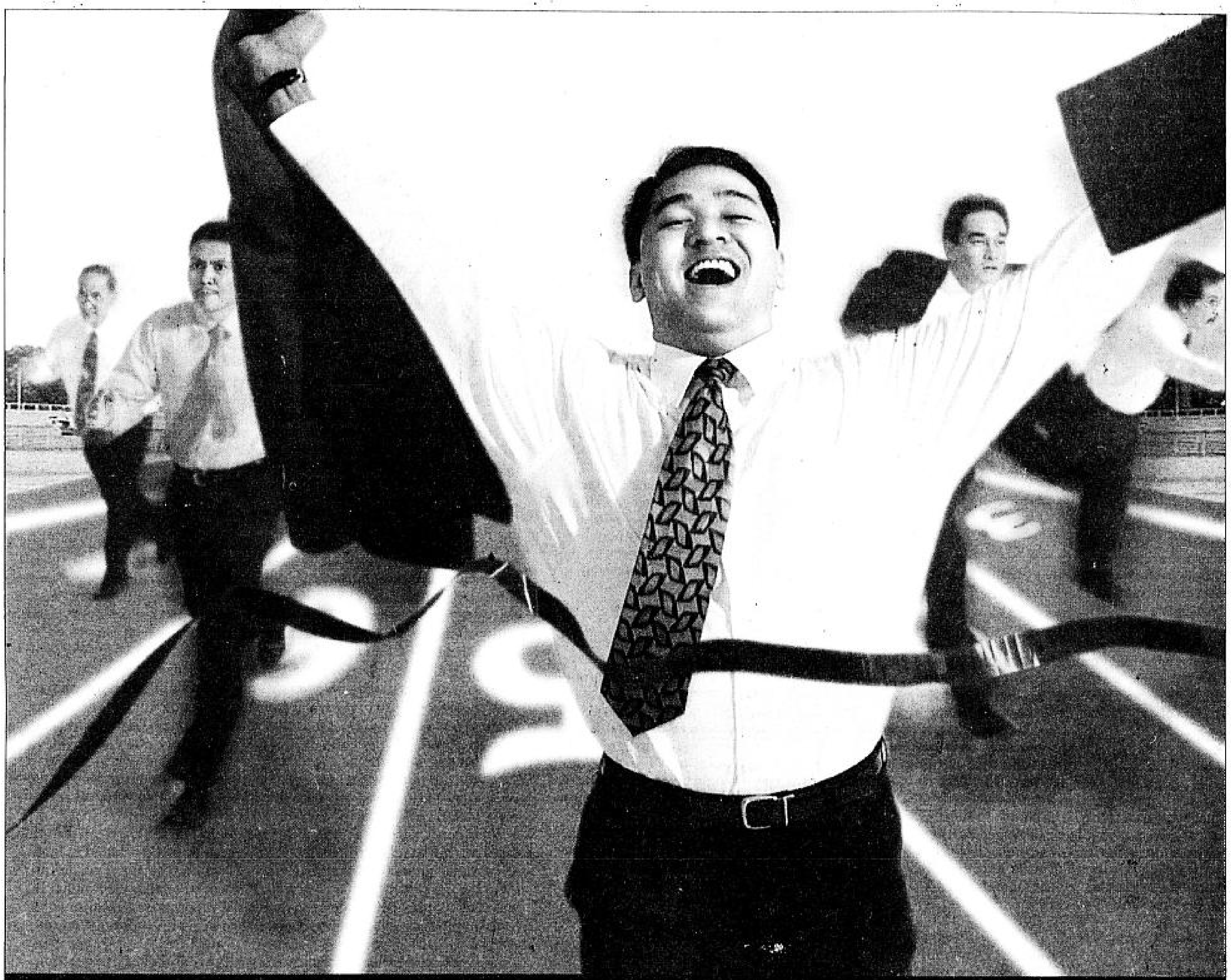
We assure the public that it is the policy of the DENR to remove the hazards to health and exposure to all harmful substances as what we did when we signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) in Sweden this year and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Canada in 1991.—**HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

Times call for local execs to show their mettle

IT seems that our country is in for a protracted fight against poverty. Since 1997 when the Asian economic crisis hit us, the economy has not completely recovered. Consequently, the shutdown of some big companies has resulted in mass layoffs. It will take more than resourcefulness to generate employment without the help of some agencies, whether public or private. Surely, the government intends to uplift the living conditions of the poor, but so far, this goal has not been fully achieved.

Under the circumstances, there is an urgent need to create jobs through small industries and livelihood projects, especially in the countryside. In this endeavor, the local government units should lead the way, as these are familiar with resources available in their areas. Though it will require a large dose of dynamic efforts to initiate such projects, I am certain local officials can do this as they promised during the election campaign.

In so doing, local government officials need not depend much on Congress to address the problem of nationwide poverty as the lawmakers are preoccupied with endless probes into anomalous government deals, scams of different natures and lately, money laundering. This is, therefore, a challenge to local officials to test their mettle in good governance.—**ADELFA L. ETRUISTE, E. Glinoga St., Barangay Castillo, Pitogo, Quezon**



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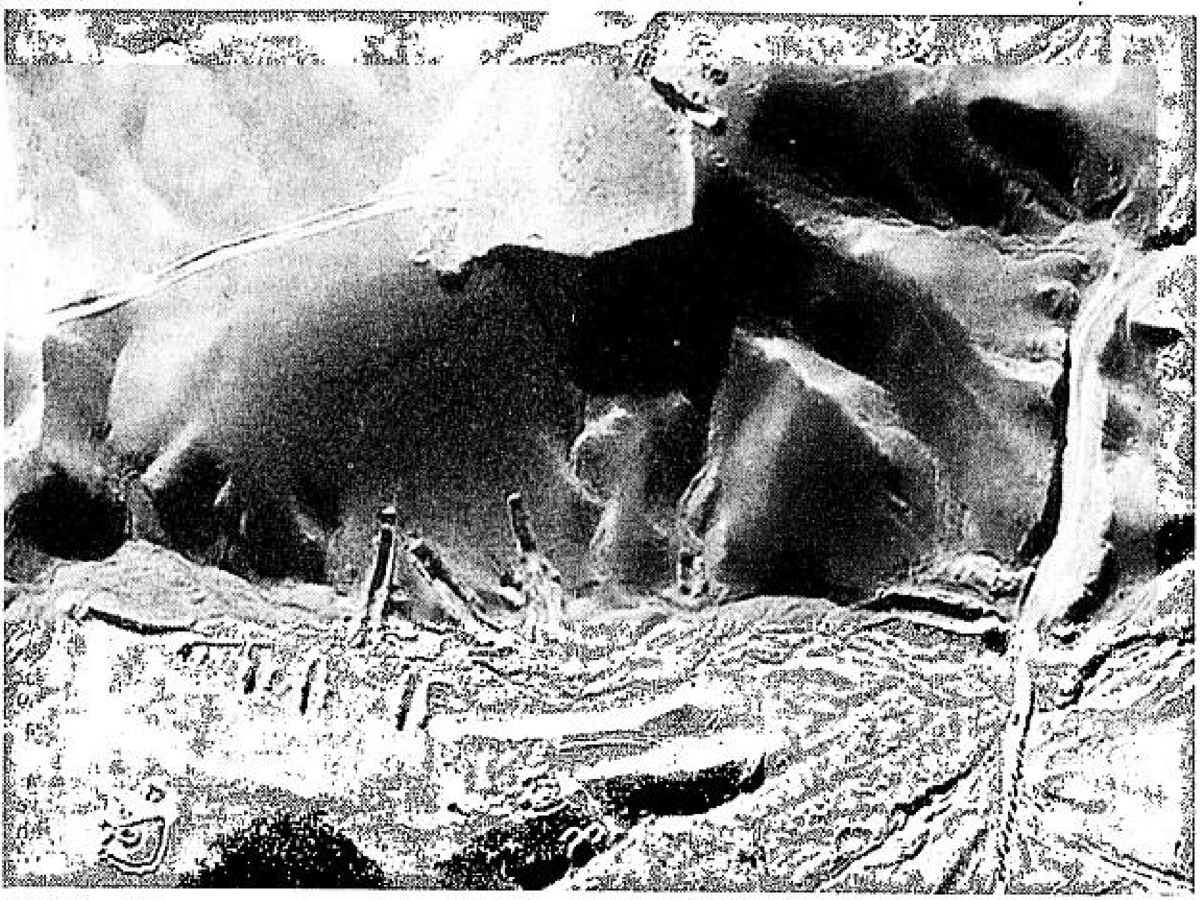
US rallies Arab support, obtains Nato commitment



PART of an Afghan military facility includes what appear to be tunnel entrances (middle left), a helicopter landing site (top center), a hilltop observation point (bottom left) and men marching single-file (bottom right) in the Darunta military compound 80 km from the Khyber Pass in this Dec. 1999 satellite photo. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—The United States Wednesday rallied Arab support for military strikes and obtained an unprecedented commitment from Nato, as it warned it would proceed on all fronts and with "full force" against its most wanted terror suspect, Afghanistan-based Osama bin Laden.

Kicking off a whirlwind tour of the Middle East in Saudi Arabia, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld scored crucial points when he convinced leaders of the powerful Gulf kingdom there would be no US military strikes against Arab countries.

In another key move, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) activated for the first time a clause allowing the allies to help a member country defend itself in the face of attack.

And at home, President George W. Bush unveiled a $60-billion to $75-billion economic stimulus package he hopes will stop the US economy from sliding deep into recession and dragging the world with it.

He also indicated his administration would implement more tax relief measures in a bid to kickstart the economy, and announced plans for a package to help the more than 100,000 US workers already laid off since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

As the country struggled to recover from the impact of the carnage, the campaign against terror continued to focus on diplomacy and intelligence-gathering ahead of likely strikes against Osama bin Laden, the Islamic extremist Washington blames for the onslaught.

Some 30,000 military personnel backed by 350 aircraft massed in South Asia, near Afghanistan, where the ruling Taliban militia is sheltering Saudi-born Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

Rumsfeld said he told Saudi King Fahd and other officials that the United States was prepared to act "on all fronts using the full force of the US government." *AFP*

Bush proposes increased aid to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration is boosting humanitarian aid to Afghanistan significantly even as it warns of a military campaign in that country and potentially beyond.

President George W. Bush was visiting the State Department on Thursday, where he was to announce that he plans to expand aid to Afghanistan by an amount one administration official said would approach $100 million.

Over the weekend, Bush dipped into an emergency fund and authorized an additional $25 million in relief aid to Afghan refugees. With the aid being announced Thursday, this year's total would be around $300 million.

Whether the money would be to help refugees or to provide food directly to people in Afghanistan was unclear, as was the manner of distributing the aid.

In discussing Afghanistan on Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin Powell refused to set limits on a prospective US military campaign against the terrorists suspected in the New York and Washington attacks and their backers.

The first potential target, Powell says, is the al-Qaida network headquarters in Afghanistan. But beyond that he refuses to be pinned down "on what might happen in the future."

Powell suggested Wednesday that the US campaign "also takes note of those nations that provide haven, provide succor, provide support to terrorist organizations."

As military planning continues, President Bush is meeting Thursday with the president of Mexico and the emir of Qatar, while a senior State Department official calls on a deposed Afghan king on Rome. *AP*

S and P: Attacks largest insured loss

SINGAPORE—Ratings agency Standard and Poor's yesterday said it had so far identified $20 billion in exposure for insurance companies stemming from the terrorist onslaught on the United States, and the figure was rising.

"Clearly, this disaster will be the largest insured loss recorded," said Ian Thompson, S and P's Asia-Pacific head of financial institutions ratings.

"By no means have the costs been fully tabulated," he said in a tele-conference call from Melbourne.

"We have so far identified $20 billion in net exposures—net of tax and net of reinsurance—and looking at the history of catastrophes we usually see these estimates grow.

"It is too early to tell what the ultimate cost will be."

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the ratings agency has placed 20 insurance companies on creditwatch with negative implications, but Thompson said company losses were not expected to reach solvency threatening levels.

However if the total costs exceeded $50 billion it would impact on the profile of insurance company credit ratings.

Despite the serious financial impact of the kamikaze strikes in New York and Washington, Thompson said the insurance industry was strong enough to cover any natural disaster which may occur in the near future.

The $20 billion identified so far was less than 10 percent of the industry capitalization of $280 billion, he said. *AFP*

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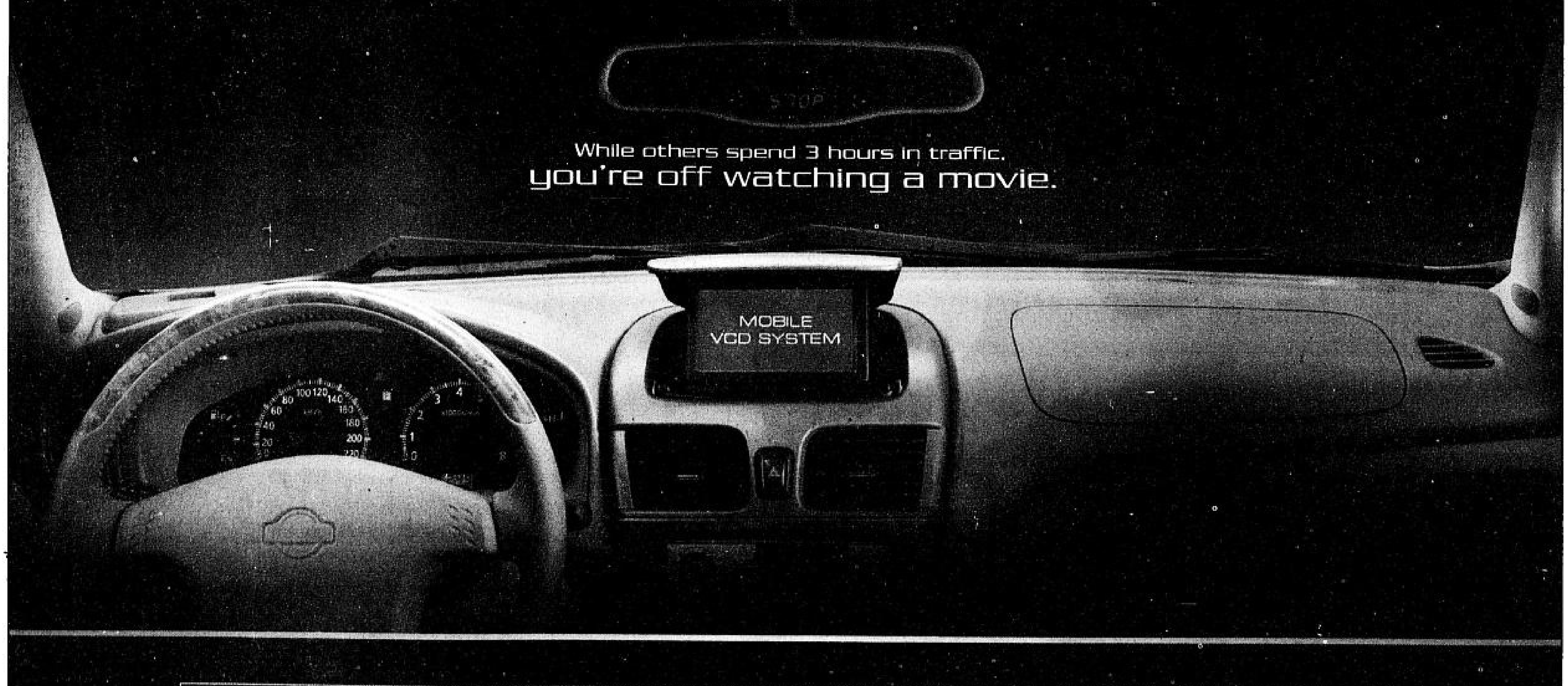

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EUROPE CONCERN

Afghan opium traders flooding the markets

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Officials fear that Afghan opium traders are flooding the markets in order to make quick money ahead of a feared US retaliatory strike on the country harboring Osama bin Laden.

The sell-off following the Sept. 11 terror attacks has partly led to a sharp decrease in the price of opium in Afghanistan, the world's leading supplier. But lower prices have yet to be felt on the streets of Europe were most of the opium ends up, law enforcement officials say.

Production of opium—a derivative of poppies and the raw material for heroin—has been an important source of revenue for Afghanistan's ruling Taliban which has earned tens of millions of dollars by taxing poppy farmers and traffickers.

Last year, the Taliban imposed a ban on poppy growing, an industry the hardline rulers deemed "unIslamic." But the ban applied only to cultivation and officials believe drug trading continues from a stockpile estimated at 2,900 tons—more than a year's supply.

In a speech Tuesday, British Prime Minister Tony Blair accused the Taliban of controlling "the biggest drugs hoard in the world." In Britain, it accounts for 90 percent of the heroin sold, according to government figures.

"The arms the Taliban are buying today are paid for with the lives of young British people buying their drugs on British streets," Blair said. "That is another part of their regime that we should seek to destroy."

Since the terror attacks, opium prices in Afghanistan have plummeted 80 percent, a development experts say is partly due to the quick selling.

"One could say that farmers trying to flee and people who have the stocks are trying to make some cash and go to a safe place," said Mohammad Amirkhizi, senior policy adviser at the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Vienna, Austria.

A US official charged that the Taliban is likely behind the sudden increase in opium that is making its way into Europe and Asia.

"I think it is very much in control of the Taliban," said the US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Amirkhizi said his agency was not mandated to determine who controls the stocks but, he added, "there have been these linkages between the Taliban and production because of their tax system."

The UN drug control agency chief, Pino Arlacchi, said last week that the supplies probably were in the hands of "criminal groups who are as powerful as the Taliban and as powerful as anyone else in Afghanistan." *AP*

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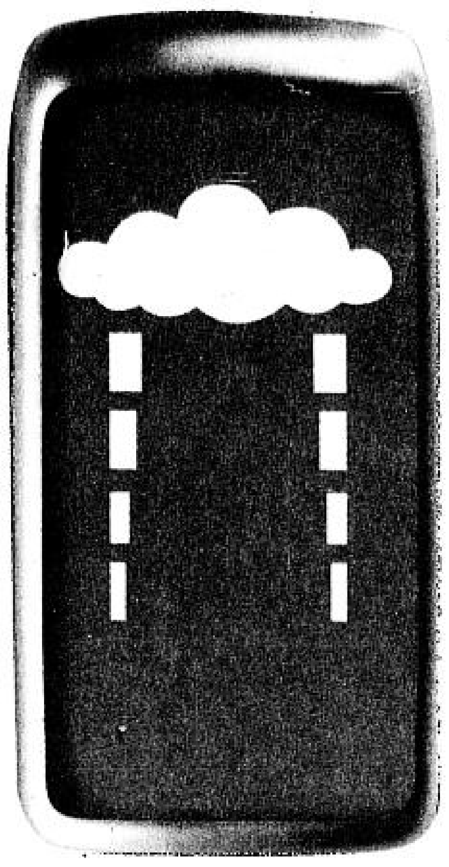

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Indian 'hijack' still a mystery

NEW DELHI—An apparent hijack on an Indian airliner turned out to be a false alarm on Thursday—but only after senior ministers were dragged from their beds for crisis talks and commandos entered the aircraft.

Doubts persisted over whether a false distress call had triggered the midnight crisis, or whether it was a mock exercise of which only a few were aware.

Civil Aviation Minister Shahnawaz Hussain blamed confusion between pilots of the Alliance Air domestic flight from Bombay to Delhi and air traffic control (ATC) in the western town of Ahmedabad.

"It was not a mock exercise or a planned exercise. We had assumed that the plane had been hijacked and the prime minister was also awake and was being informed," he told reporters after the 52 people on board the Boeing 737 had left the plane.

"It was a false alarm. The confusion arose between ATC Ahmedabad and the pilots," he said, adding that the air traffic controllers had received an anonymous call suggesting that the plane was going to be hijacked.

Mock exercise

But an Alliance Air official said it was a mock exercise to test responses of men on the ground.

"It was a mock exercise to test the state of preparedness of various agencies such as fire brigade and security. It was conducted at the highest level."

Minutes later, the official said the "latest directions" from the Civil Aviation Ministry, which controls the airline, were that a hoax call had triggered the crisis.

Minister of state for home (interior) I.D. Swamy said an inquiry would be ordered to find out exactly what happened.

Civil Aviation Minister Hussain said the four-hour crisis ended when commandos of the elite National Security Guard entered the cockpit and told officials on the ground it was not a hijack.

Another passenger on the plane said he had seen the commandos beating up a passenger, a domestic news agency said. "It does not look like a mock. The way they beat up a passenger . . . was not a fake thing," Press Trust of India quoted Anil Golcha as saying.

The incident, which brought police, ambulances and anxious relatives to Delhi airport, was the first reported hijack since the Sept. 11 suicide attacks in the United States.

Terror war

India, which has thrown its weight behind President George W. Bush's war on terrorism following those attacks, has been braced for retaliation for its support for Washington and it had tightened security at airports and on planes.

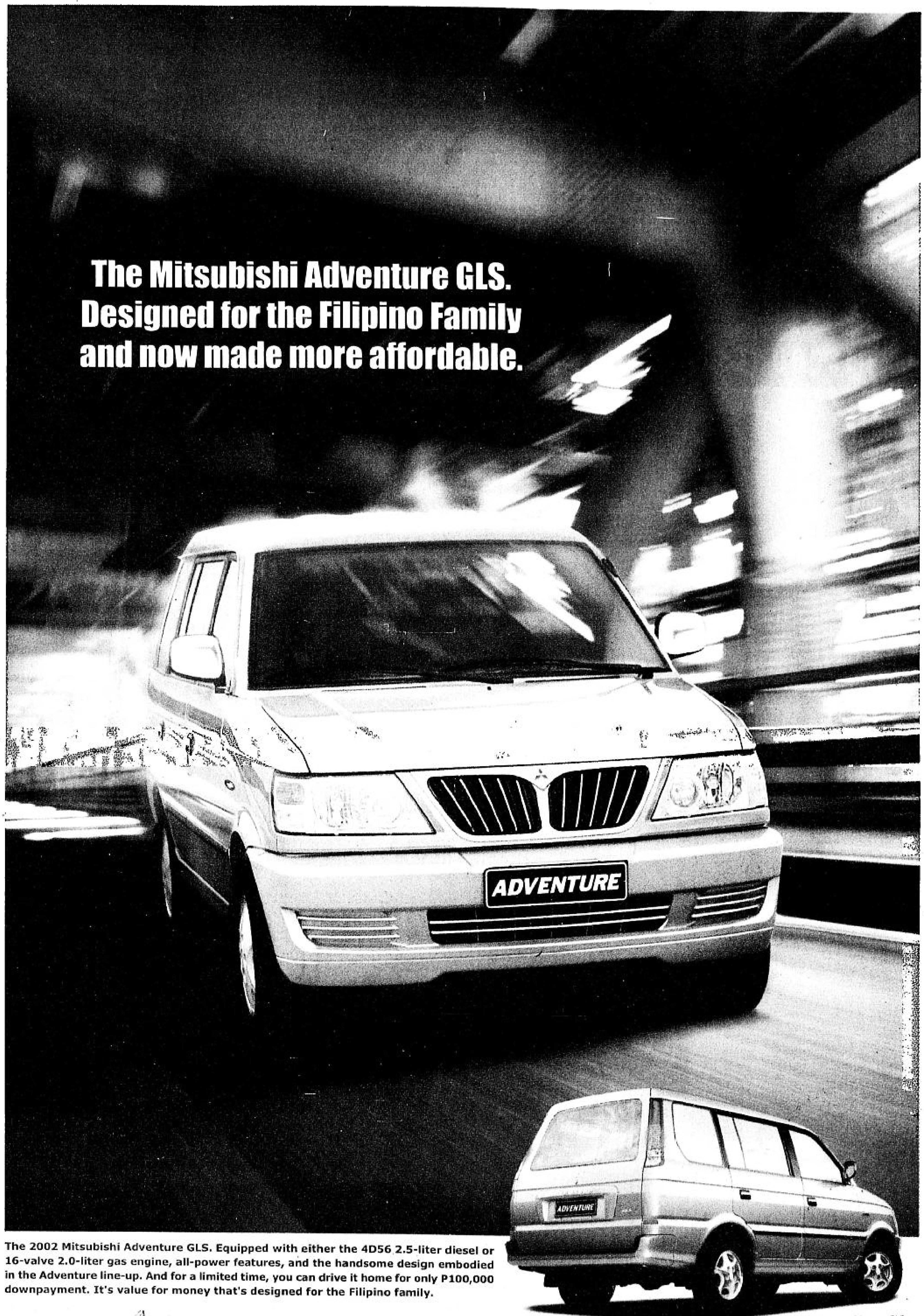
That a hoax call could trigger such an emergency demonstrated just how edgy the administration has become in recent days.

Senior ministers rushed into crisis management talks as soon as reports of a hijack emerged, signaling that the government was taking the news seriously.

Passengers from the plane spoke of confusion on board.

"First when we landed, we were given drinks, so we thought it was not a hijack," passenger Darshan Singh said afterward.

"After around two hours, we realized it was a hijack, then we saw the commandos rushing to the aircraft, they told us don't worry, you are safe." *Reuters*



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'Explosive' AIDS epidemics hit Asian sex workers–UN

MELBOURNE—Prostitutes in China, Indonesia and Vietnam are falling victim to "explosive" AIDS epidemics, which will spread to their customers' wives and girlfriends, a UN-funded report said yesterday.

While large-scale preventative action had kept the disease at bay in parts of Asia, there was "clear potential" for AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes it to spread, the Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic Network report said.

"After more than a decade of comparatively low HIV infection levels in most population groups, there is recent evidence of rapidly growing epidemics in some populations and geographic areas," the report said.

"A number of countries, for example China, Indonesia and Vietnam, are now experiencing explosive epidemics in different population groups."

The report found soaring levels of HIV infection among intravenous drug users and sex workers in some regions.

"We are kidding ourselves if we think Asia is not at risk for a major AIDS epidemic, it is already there," UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot told a media conference.

HIV testing of sex workers in three provinces in China showed recent rapid rises in infection rates.

In Guangxi province, 9.9 percent of sex workers were found to have HIV in the second quarter of 2000. The figure rose to 10.7 percent by the fourth quarter of the same year.

"As millions of men frequent sex workers every year, it is inevitable that HIV infection among these men will rise and that the fatal virus will eventually get passed on to their wives and regular girlfriends," the report said.

In August, China admitted it was facing a "very serious" AIDS epidemic with HIV cases up by two thirds in a year.

In Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, HIV infection rates among sex workers and their clients increased to more than 20 percent in 2000 from virtually nil in 1996.

Indonesia recorded a jump in HIV among sex workers to 26 percent in three geographic areas from six percent previously. There were also outbreaks of the virus among injecting drug users around the country.

The AIDS Pandemic Network has more than 100 members in 40 countries and receives funding from the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

"Some countries in the region began prevention efforts early and they are reaping the benefits today," Piot said.

"Elsewhere, however, epidemics will continue their natural course unless prevention programs quickly reach the population groups most vulnerable to HIV," he said.

The report noted the success of prevention programs in hard-hit Thailand and Cambodia in limiting the spread of HIV and said there was great potential for containment in Asia because most of the epidemics in the region remained concentrated.'

"The good news for Asia is that because the majority of the population does not engage in high-risk behavior, focusing on those who do is both affordable and effective," it said.

The report said only three Asian countries—Cambodia, Burma and Thailand—had registered nationwide AIDS prevalence rates of more than one percent, compared with rates 10 or more times higher in some African countries. *Reuters*

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REUTERS

DR. FIONA Hollinshead carries "Leigh," one of 25 lambs whose sex had been successfully selected before conception in a world first announced at Sydney University Oct. 4.

Breakthrough in animal sex selection made

SYDNEY—Australian scientists have claimed a commercial breakthrough after breeding 25 lambs whose sex was successfully selected before conception, heralding a possible end to the mass slaughter of "wrong sex" animals.

The healthy lambs, now nine and 10 weeks old, are the first offspring of any species in Australia from sperm sorted into male or female chromosomes and rethawed after being frozen.

Researchers from the University of Sydney, together with US biotechnology firm XY Inc., achieved an overall accuracy rate of 96 percent in producing the correct gender lambs, the scientists said on Thursday.

The new technique in animal sex selection might boost efficiency in the breeding industry by 50 percent—leading to efficiency gains worth $6 billion a year for the global cattle, horse and pig breeding industries, they said.

It could also stop the slaughter of large numbers of farm animals at birth because they are the "wrong" sex.

The dairy industry, for example, only needs females. The result is the slaying of 600,000 male cattle at birth in Britain alone every year, the scientists said.

The technology has further applications for endangered species, they added.

"Advances in science are normally small and incremental," Professor Herman Raadsma, director of the university's Center for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction (ReproGen), told reporters.

"But every so often we see some major discoveries which will have a profound outcome on the way that we do things."

The breakthrough involves the freezing and thawing of sperm, and conception through artificial insemination of low doses of sorted sperm.

Determining the sex of animals has been achieved before in many species, including lambs, by using fresh sperm. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Mideast truce in tatters

JERUSALEM—Israeli forces killed six Palestinians during a tank incursion into a Palestinian-ruled area of the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, retaliating for a deadly raid by Islamic militants on a Jewish settlement. Washington issued an appeal to both sides to rein in the violence, which dealt a grave blow to its efforts to end the fighting as it tries to draw Arab nations into an anti-terror alliance after last month's attacks on New York and Washington. The Israeli Army action in Gaza was launched after Islamic militants attacked the Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai on Tuesday night, killing two Israelis. Violence also spread to the West Bank, where Palestinian gunmen fired into a crowd of thousands of Jewish worshippers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the divided city of Hebron, wounding two Israeli women, one seriously, the Army said. *Reuters*

Koizumi to placate Seoul

SEOUL—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will make a new gesture of atonement for his country's wartime past when he visits Seoul on Oct. 15 in a bid to ease relations, officials said yesterday. Koizumi's one-day visit was agreed after months of negotiations and repeated rejections by the Seoul government, diplomats said. According to Tokyo news reports, Koizumi will go to South Korea and China. *AFP*

Asean rice stockpile

JAKARTA—Southeast Asian agriculture ministers have agreed in principle to set up a rice stockpile to alleviate regional shortages, an Indonesian minister said yesterday. "We have agreed to build a regional rice reserve system . . . in a relatively large amount for the needs of states within the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) area," Agriculture Minister Bungaran Saragih said. Saragih gave no more details on how the stockpile may operate but said it could reduce the need for costly imports from outside the region. *AFP*

Swissair thrown lifeline

GENEVA—Swissair was thrown a nearly $300-million lifeline by the Swiss government on Wednesday to get the crippled airline back into the air. Stressing the country's image was at stake, Swiss Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger told a news conference in Bern that up to $279 million of funds were designed to ensure Swissair flights could resume until Oct. 28. Planes were due to take to the skies again on Thursday although only half of the scheduled flights were initially expected to go ahead. The 70-year-old aviation giant suffered a humiliating blow on Tuesday when it was forced to ground its fleet after being unable to raise enough cash to pay suppliers of jet fuel. *AFP*

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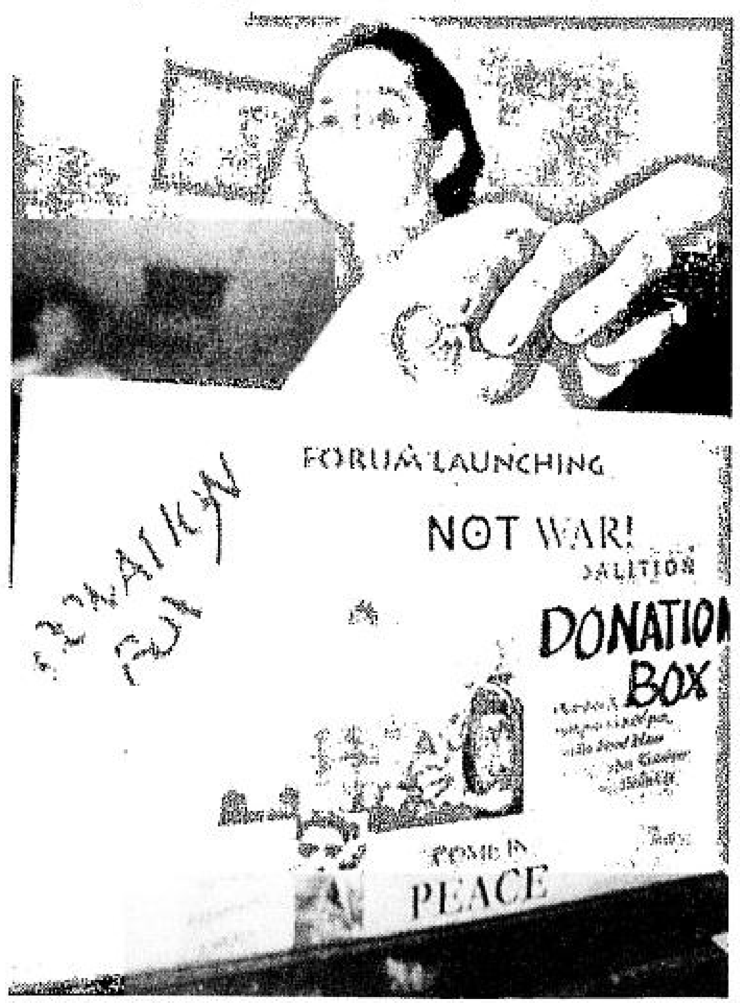

PEACE CAMPAIGN RYAN LIM

A woman drops a coin into the donation box of the Justice Not War Coalition, a group opposed to the United States' "war without borders" campaign. The group was launched yesterday in Davao City.

Muslims in Baguio City back anti-terror drive

BAGUIO CITY—To help the government's fight against terrorism, Muslim officials in the Cordillera vowed to turn over Muslim migrants with doubtful backgrounds to the police to prove that they are not covering up any terrorist activities of Muslims.

Amir Gunting, regional director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, made this assurance to Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, Cordillera police director, this week.

"We will protect Baguio like we protect Marawi City against all forms of terrorism. Next to Marawi City, Luzon has been our home," he said.

Gunting said their office is mandated to check on all Muslim Filipinos "regardless of their roots, for their protection."

"If we discover that one's character is doubtful despite his being a Muslim, we will turn him over to the police," he said.

At least 7,000 Muslims are in the Cordillera, with at least 3,000 based in Baguio.

In a press forum on Wednesday, Abdullah Macarimpas, OMA assistant regional director, said Muslims have been suffering from discrimination following the criminal activities of the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao and the terrorist attacks in the United States.

"We are Filipinos (but) people label us as Abu Sayyaf and call us 'Bin Laden,'" Macarimpas told reporters.

He said they were usually called "Bin Laden," after suspected terrorist financier Osama bin Laden, and "Abu Sayyaf" whenever they conduct business or walk in the streets.

"Muslims are the usual targets of investigations, and we are tired of this. We must put a stop to the labeling and concentrate of real police work to (unearth) the real terrorists, and we have always been willing to help them," Macarimpas said.

Abdul Jalil Datumar, 15, voiced fears that Muslims would forced out of Baguio because of "religious prejudice."

"Some people are not considering us as part of this city (while some are trying to get) us back to our troubled land," he said in Filipino.

"But I believe that we should not be afraid to tell people that we feel insulted every time they blame Muslims for all the acts of terrorism happening in the country and in the world," said Datumar, a junior at the Baguio City National High School.

Macarimpas, however, said they could not blame their Muslim counterparts in certain parts of Mindanao for fighting the government because they had been considered as second-class citizens for more than 20 years.

He said government support and privileges in Mindanao were given only to non-Muslim areas, while Muslim areas had remained poor.

"Please stop saying Muslim terrorist or Muslim extremist because it is an insult to our religion," he said. "Muslims in Mindanao have nothing to do with the Abu Sayyaf so people should not generalize their act as an act of all Muslims." *Jovelyn Reyes with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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More Pinoy victims of racism feared

BAGUIO CITY—The "borderless war" that United States President George Bush declared against terrorism would increase racism cases against Filipinos who are living in the US, the Migrante International has warned.

In a study of cases of human rights violations committed before the Sept. 11 terror attacks, the group showed evidence of racism and discrimination against Filipino immigrants and Filipino-Americans.

"We are afraid that those Filipinos who are opposed to President George Bush's pronouncement on borderless war will be associated with the terrorists and will, therefore, suffer more abuse and other forms of human rights violation that they have been experiencing before," Poe Gratela, Migrante secretary general, said here.

Racism and discrimination against Filipinos and other "people of color" in the US would often resort to assault, harassment and other forms of physical violence and to limited opportunities in job hiring, Migrante said.

"Many of our doctors, engineers and other professionals are forced to accept jobs that are not equivalent to their real profession, like being a 'tender' of a hamburger stand," Migrante said in a position paper presented during a forum on racism at the Episcopalian Church here on Sept. 26.

In an earlier interview, Kawal Ulanday, a Filipino-American member of the San Francisco-based Committee on Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP), said his group had documented at least 20 cases of "hate crimes" against US-based Filipinos everyday before the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

"We know that there are more undocumented cases of hate crimes in the US against our fellow Filipinos, but they are either afraid or careful to report these because these will affect their stay, which is kind of illegal," Ulanday told the INQUIRER.

He said a "brown Filipino" was prone to getting killed in the US because of his or her color.

Gratela said human rights violations would be rampant not only in the US but in other countries that have become US allies.

Tonette Dizon, deputy secretary of the government workers' union Courage and field services director of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said Bush's "war declaration" had completely divided the world.

"*Binuhay na naman ni* Bush *ang* racism because of his declaration. *Gitgitan ng bansa laban sa bansa ang mangyayari* (Bush has revived racism with his declaration. It will eventually result in the war among nations)," she said.

"The situation of our migrants can be considered modern-day slavery, not just because of the economic crisis hounding the country but also because of racial discrimination brought about by the recent terrorist attacks."

She said the war would bring a long-term adverse effect on the next generation that may become victims of racism.

"In the US, the second and third generations of Fil-Ams have been asking the first generation why they are being treated badly by the Americans," Gratela said.

He said they were afraid that the Philippines will also fall prey to the US war against terrorism because of the presence of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu.

"We condemn all acts of terrorism, but we also condemn war. Nations should not suffer from the war, what the US should do is to go after those who attacked the World Trade Center," Gratela said.

"But we do not want to make it appear that we are anti-US. We are just against their policies that will not benefit us." ***Desiree Caluza with a report from Ira May Joyce Pedrasa, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gov't may target Muslim aid funds, foundation says

BAGUIO CITY—A Muslim foundation has aired fears that the government will target financial assistance to Mindanao using the new anti-money laundering law.

But the Darul Hijra Foundation, one of the organizations supporting indigent Muslims, wants the government to scrutinize and clear the accounts of various Muslim institutions in the country.

Bedejim Abdullah, Darul Hijra's Baguio-based spokesperson, said clearing the accounts would prevent the military from speculating that the Philippines is part of a terrorist financial network that deals with alleged terrorist financier Osama bin Laden.

Abdullah said his foundation had been under military surveillance for months, even at the height of last year's military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), because of the kind of money it is able to funnel to indigent Muslims.

Abdullah told Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, Cordillera police director, during a Sept. 29 dialogue here, that Darul Hijra was listed by the military among the potential Filipino beneficiaries of money that is supposedly laundered here by Bin Laden.

"Our own sources from the military had informed us that we were on their watch list. But we dispute that," Abdullah told the INQUIRER.

He said all legitimate Muslim Filipino foundations have been open conduits of livelihood donations coming from "rich Muslims seeking to help poor Muslims."

Abdullah admitted that no agency has made a full accounting of these donations, which flow yearly into Mindanao and various parts of the country.

"I cannot speak for the rest of the Muslim institutions, but most of these groups carry millions and millions of pesos to the poor Muslims. You do not expect Saudi Arabians to donate to a charity there because they are relatively well off. But they will funnel money to Mindanao," he said.

Darul Hijra, for example, concentrates on building mosques, he said.

"I haven't heard of government funds pouring into these mosques. We have already built 20 major mosques all over the country," he said.

Abdullah said the government could not even accuse the Muslim institutions of laundering these funds because money "always pours into the Philippines, never out of it."

But a Muslim scholar here suggested that the government should instead review how previous administrations handled Muslim donations, which were coursed through Malacañang.

The scholar said donations from Libya during the Marcos dictatorship had either been stolen or misappropriated, "reflecting on how Muslim Filipinos were mistreated even when the opportunity to help them was there."

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Worker wins lotto jackpot of P13M

TACLOBAN CITY—It was to be a simple celebration on Sept. 20 on his 21st birthday, he had thought, but it turned out to be a grand feast.

The man of the moment, Antonio (not his real name), who works in a local hamburger outlet here, won the P13.2-million lotto jackpot during the Sept. 13 draw.

Antonio told radio station dyWR yesterday that he bought his lotto ticket because he wanted to win P20,000 to spend for a simple birthday party for his family and friends.

A bettor wins P20,000 if five of the six numbers in his ticket match the winning combination.

Antonio chose the numbers 8, 11, 18, 21, 23 and 31 when he bought his ticket at the lotto outlet owned by Lenny Ricacho on Real and Veteranos Streets on that same day of the draw.

With his prize, Antonio got much, much more than what he had wished for. The simple celebration he had planned became a lavish party.

Antonio said he immediately flew to Manila to get his check from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office main office. The money was released on Sept. 20, Antonio's birthday.

Antonio is the 10th resident of Tacloban to win the lotto jackpot prize since the PCSO opened the on-line lottery in June 1997. *Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Resource Person: Dr. Rudyard A. Avila III, Aetna Philippines

Saturday, 27 October 2001

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. **IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN REMAINS IN MEDICO-LEGAL CASES**
Resource Person: Dr. Raquel B. Del Rosario-Fortun, M.D., F.P.S.P., Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila
1:30 - 5:00 p.m. **FORENSIC INVESTIGATION OF IATROGENIC DEATH**
Resource Persons: Dr. Raquel B. Del Rosario - Fortun
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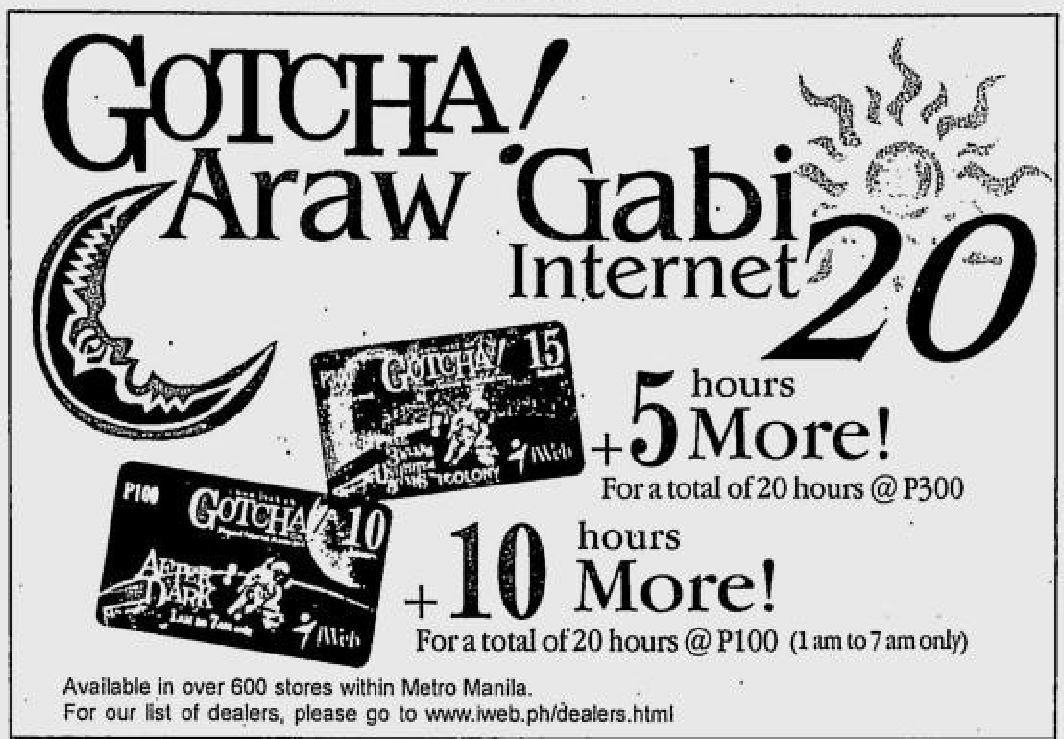

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Joemma Lopina
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Jorge Palomaria
Velasco St., Libis, Calapan
City, Oriental Mindoro
Ma. Corazon C. Enano
232-C Angolo Subd.,
Sambag, Jaro Iloilo City
Mebelyn Navarra
60-B Brgy., Libertad
Lapuz, Iloilo City
Minda G. Yulo
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Jasaan, Misamis Oriental
Gerardo E. Panganiban, Jr.
Brgy. Concepcion, Iloilo City
Jennifer Lapingcas
Lulucta St., Oton, Iloilo City
Jenny C. Quintia
Dao Capiz
Jorge V. Fajardo
3245 J. Reyes St., Brgy. Bitan-O,
Sorsogon City
Josette Lozanes
Lambyao, Iloilo City
Juvy Encarnacion
Maybato, North
San Jose, Antique
Lazaro B. Biron, Jr.
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Lovelyn Pia
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Batangas City
Ma. Cristina P. Benipayo
Unit 1 Guanita Apts.
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Wilfredo Rodriguez
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Rizal Iloilo
Grace R. Epres
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Albay
Gina Antigro
San Roque Tulay, Bauan
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Harold Hernandez
Bejasa St., Aplaya, Bauan
Batangas
Imelda P. Casandra
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Jeneth C. Zante
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Iloilo
Joel Calanao
J.T. Bretaña St., Barotac Nuevo
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Ma. Fe Manate
Cabugao Sur, Pavia, Iloilo City
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3 Contawe St., Olongapo City
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Rodolfo R. Castillo
73 Banaba St., Labas,
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Mindoro
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169 Sitio San Isidro,
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News that makes a difference

Ilonggos warned on flu

ILOILO CITY—Ilonggos have been advised to keep away from and not to bring their kids to crowded areas, like shopping malls, moviehouses and other enclosed places to prevent the rash of influenza, similar to what happened in Metro Manila.

"This is influenza season and we should not be surprised if we see a lot of children and adults coughing, have a temperature and running nose," said Dr. Glen Alonsabe, epidemiologist of the Department of Health regional office.

While flu can be treated through bed rest, taking enough fluids and Vitamin C, Alonsabe said parents should watch out for complications like bronchitis or pneumonia.

National security adviser Roilo Golez, told a radio station here that the public should not be alarmed by the number of flu cases in Metro Manila, which, according to rumors, was a biological terrorist attack on children studying at Catholic schools.

Reports that some 2,000 schoolchildren in Manila have been stricken with influenza worried parents here, especially those with children enrolled in exclusive and private schools that have air-conditioned classrooms.

The news came at a time when weekend sales in malls and the opening of a new shopping mall beside a stinking wet market have been announced.

Flu is a viral infection that affects the respiratory system. It often occurs during rainy season.

City health officer Urminico Baronda said reports of flu cases in public and private schools were being monitored. He said a health bulletin would be issued when cases reached unusual levels. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ibaloi leader of opposition to San Roque dam dies

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ITOGON, Benguet—*Lakay* Pascual Pocding, an Ibaloi elder who led the opposition to the construction of the San Roque multipurpose dam in Barangay Dalupirip here, died from a tumor in the intestines on Sept. 28. He was 73.

Ibalois here said they have lost a leader who fought for their rights to their ancestral land.

Pocding, chair of the Shalupirip Santahnay Indigenous Peoples Movement (SSIPM), was firm on his stand that the San Roque Dam being built along the Agno River would submerge their land and displace his people.

Luisa Besitan, a member of the SSIPM, said the people lost a "very intelligent and respected leader" in Pocding.

"He has become a symbol of a fighter and he left us with so many things that inspire us to defend our land, life and resources from the San Roque Dam," she said.

Pocding was a former war veteran and member of the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion. He retired as a security officer of Benguet Corp. in the 1980s and lived the life of a farmer in Dalupirip.

Life would have been peaceful and quiet for Pocding and his neighbors in Dalupirip until they were informed that then President Fidel Ramos had approved the construction of the 345-megawatt dam in 1996.

The dam, which will connect two mountains across a deep gorge traversed by the Agno River, will be about 200 meters high with a base of 800 meters.

The structure will encroach on farming areas in Itogon, Benguet, and in San Manuel, Pangasinan.

Jill Cariño, a member of San Roque Task Force, said it was Pocding who initiated moves to unite the Ibalois in their opposition to the San Roque Dam project.

Pocding was buried at the Itogon *poblacion* cemetery on Thursday.

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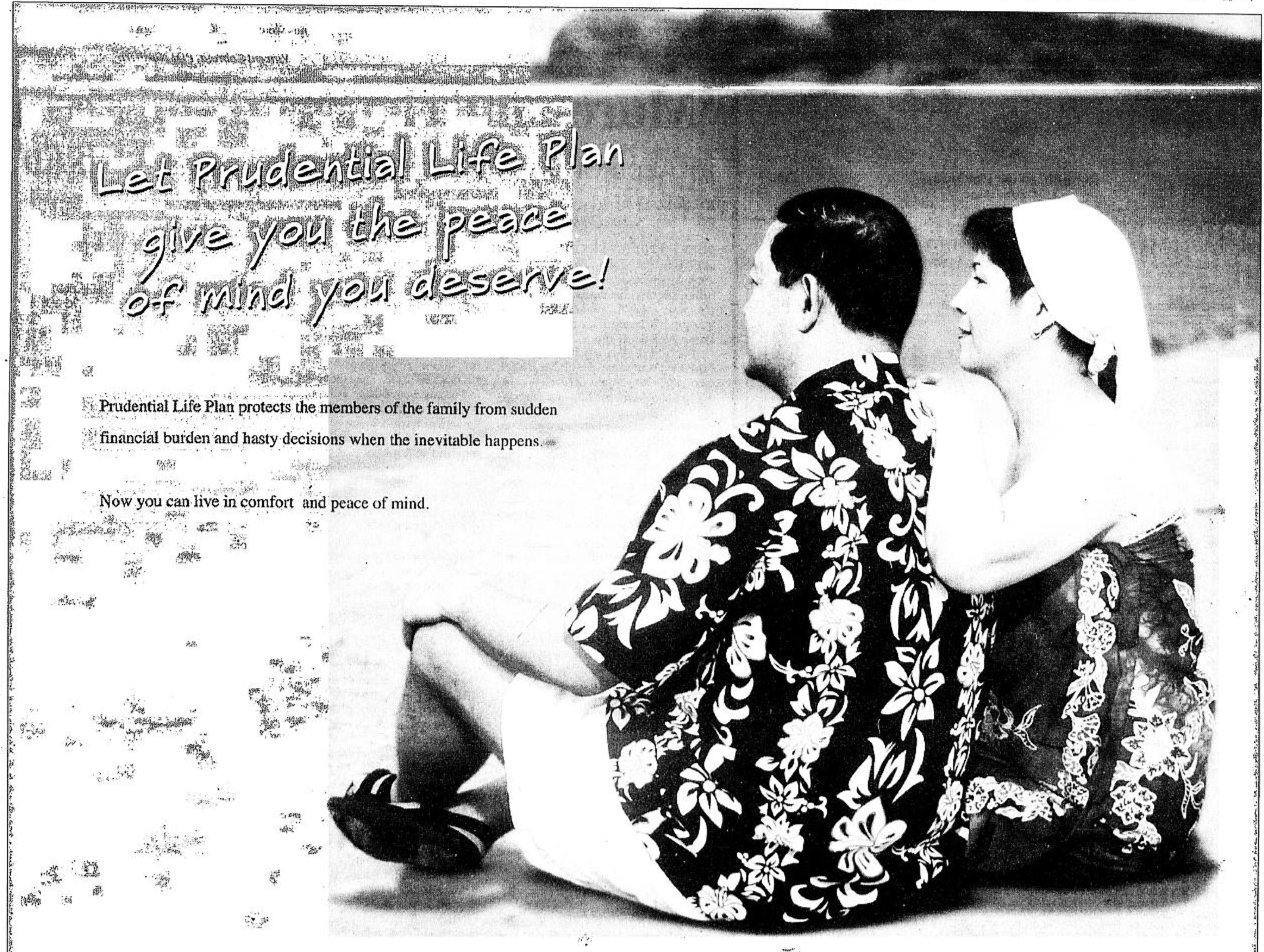
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/05/01

ROUNDUP

Noisy customer shot

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—For being noisy inside the billiards hall of actor and now Board Member Daniel Fernando in Barangay Tabang here, a customer was shot and beaten by the employees. Jojie Gamas, Fernando's caretaker, was charged with frustrated murder before the municipal trial court for shooting Augusto Palileo's leg with a .38 cal. revolver. Fernando's brother, Rico Ramirez, was charged with physical injuries for allegedly beating Palileo. Fernando said Gamas and his brother caught the victim stealing ducks and hallow blocks inside the hall's compound.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Rebels kill photographer

ORION, Bataan—Suspected communist rebels shot and killed a police photographer and wounded his wife Tuesday in Barangay Lusungan here. Killed was Victoriano Gutierrez Jr., 44, a former columnist of a local paper and vice president of "Kill Droga," an anti-drugs movement here. Police said Gutierrez was about to board a tricycle with his wife Fe when three armed men believed to be members of Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan fired at them. Fe had a bullet wound in the right arm.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Literature teaching seminar

DAVAO CITY—The University of the Philippines-Mindanao and the Samahan ng mga Guro ng Panitikan sa Dabaw will conduct a seminar-workshop on teaching literature in English and Filipino at the Grand Men Seng Hotel here on Oct. 20. The workshop aims to encourage appreciation and dynamic instruction of literature among teachers in Southern Mindanao. Dr. Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo and Professors Gemino Abad and Jose Lacaba will be the resource speakers.

PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ramos airs appeal to kidnappers

Ex-President also asks family of victim to cooperate with authorities

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Former President Fidel Ramos appealed to the family of alleged kidnap-for-ransom victim Charlie Ngo to cooperate with the authorities to hasten his release.

While there is danger or implied threat to the victim if the family seeks the help of authorities, the chances of the victims being released safe and unharmed are high when the family cooperates with authorities, Ramos said.

The former president, a Pangasinense, was here Thursday to turn over economic, political, biographical and historical books to the city library.

In a press conference, Ramos also appealed to the kidnappers to return, "as soon as possible," Ngo to his family because "those who are behind kidnap-for-ransom activities will be rewarded with punishment in the end."

Ngo's family has been denying that he was abducted last week. His brother Howie told policemen that Ngo was in Cebu for a business trip.

Reports here said Ngo, president of the Star Plaza Hotel, was abducted while on his way to the hotel.

Mayor Benjamin Lim told local reporters that he spoke to Ngo's wife and she laughed off the kidnapping reports.

Ramos told reporters to fully support the anti-kidnapping measures undertaken by the government and the police. The "reports must be in favor of the victim and the law enforcement," he said.

Provincial police authorities are looking into a possible link between the abduction of Ngo and Jacqui Rowena Tiu, a daughter of the owners of Capital Limber in San Fernando City, who was kidnapped on Sept. 27, the same day that Ngo went missing.

Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, provincial police director, said there were "small leads" in the investigation of Ngo's abduction and "we are trying to establish the relationship between the two incidents."

What's making it difficult for the police to solve the alleged kidnapping was that there are no witnesses and the family has continuously denied that Ngo was kidnapped.

"We do not know if what Ngo's family is saying is true. But we are respecting the decision because it involves the safety of a family member. We are discreetly investigating and we will try to talk to the family members again," Mendoza said.

He added that the police were still in a quandary as to the real situation and "cannot confirm or deny if there indeed was a kidnapping incident."

Basilan execs tap cell phones in anti-Sayyaf fight

LAMITAN, Basilan—Local officials have opened a new front in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf—through text messaging.

"We can now text (sending of messages through SMS) our authorities about any unusual movement by people or presence of suspicious looking personalities in our town, and they could easily be arrested," Mayor Inocencio Ramos said.

One could not get any signal in this town from cellular operators until Sept. 20, when Globe's cell site started to become operational.

The lack of communication means between authorities and civilians has been identified as one reason for the slow government response to Abu Sayyaf atrocities.

The communications facility installed inside the headquarters of the Army's 18th Infantry Battalion here is under heavy guard against possible saboteurs, according to Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, commander of the 102nd Army Brigade.

"Texting (could prove to be) one (of the most) important moves against the Abu Sayyaf," Ramos said.

Although there are still areas considered "dead spots" for transmitting calls, the presence of the cell site has been welcomed by local residents.

The installation of Globe's cell site has also boosted the soldiers' morale, according to Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

"Our soldiers can now easily communicate with their families and loved ones. They don't have to secure passes to visit them," Sua said.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

REBEL FIREPOWER

EDWIN BACASMAS

Former New People's Army rebels await President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday at the Gloria municipal gym in Oriental Mindoro for a ceremony formalizing their surrender.

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NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

NAME OF TAX DELINQUENTS	TAX DECLARATION NUMBERS	DATE UPON W/C THE TAX BECAME DELINQUENT	AMOUNT
1.) MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01374	1992-2001	181,883,388.82
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01375	1992-2001	33,019,044.96
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01376	1992-2001	94,686,071.36
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01377	1992-2001	29,531,758.90
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01378	1992-2001	180,936,472.44
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01379	1992-2001	7,038,820.80
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01380	1992-2001	12,663,728.32
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01385	1992-2001	9,634,990.95
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01387	1992-2001	52,140,816.00
MANILA INT'L. AIRPORT	E016-01396	1992-2001	112,483.80
		SUB-TOTAL	601,647,576.35
2.) METROPLAS Packaging Products	E006-10194	1996-2001	2,947,252.35
	E006-10195	1991-2001	7,645,197.11
	E006-10196	1992-2001	3,699,036.77
	E006-10197	1993-2001	2,202,860.13
	E006-10198	1998-2001	167,340.75
		SUB-TOTAL	16,661,687.11
3.) CLARENCIO YUJUICO	E010-05007	1974-2001	9,655,980.96
	E010-05004	1974-1999	2,935,091.18
		SUB-TOTAL	12,591,072.14
4.) UTTAMS INTERNATIONAL INC.	E009-07992	1994-1995	
	E009-07993	1997-1999	
		2000-2001	1,983,809.72
5.) SEAMANK ENTERPRISES	E012-02278	4th 1991-2001	179,228.33
	E012-02279	4th 1991-2001	31,492.29
	E012-02280	4th 1991-2001	234,625.65
	E012-02281	4th 1991-2001	390,696.75
	E012-02282	1993-2001	256,269.75
	E012-02283	1988-2001	325,775.31
	E012-02284	1994-2001	379,889.55
		SUB-TOTAL	1,797,977.63
6.) VICTORIA EXPORT	E013-02949/50/51	4th 1998-2001	1,537,958.55
7.) AFC Prawn Corporation	E013-02952/53	4th 1998-2001	781,305.05
8.) Diamant Boart Phils. Inc.	E014-00335	4th 1986-2001	91,586.06
	E014-00337	1998-2001	172,469.76
	E014-00340	1998-2001	120,386.37
	E014-00341	1996-2001	386,142.33
	E014-00342	1989-2001	763,840.55
		SUB-TOTAL	1,534,424.52
9.) Ma. Amparo Pascual	E010-06294	1994-2001	901,108.95
10.) A.G. Adriano Furniture	E006-00043/44	1998-2001	851,870.73
11.) Sentosa Park Properties Dev. Corp.	E012-03586/88	3rd 1998-2001	791,620.04
12.) Poly Werke Inc.	E012-02293/94	1994-2001	302,486.49
	E012-02295	1997-2001	114,206.40
		SUB-TOTAL	416,692.89
13.) Ilang-ilang Valley Homeowners Ass.	E009-07685	1995-2001	262,843.42
14.) Top Side Const. Dev. Corp.	E009-09351	4th 1992-2001	1,115,129.50
15.) Jose Leon Gonzales	TCT No. 41639	1962-2001	14,874,304.90
16.) Francisco Felipe Gonzales II	TCT No. 90760	1962-2001	26,003,276.30

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST OF THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OR A FRACTION THEREOF, UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS. FURTHER, AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL VELY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION, AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASES, SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
ICO-CITY TREASURER

(PDI--Oct. 5, 2001)

'Muro-ami' charges dismissed

Prosecutor says 2 fishing boats only using 'pa-aling'

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"*Muro-ami*" is illegal, while "*pa-aling*" is not.

A provincial prosecutor anchored his ruling on this distinction between the two destructive fishing methods in dismissing two cases of *muro-ami* against Prime-A Fishing Corp.

Two of Prime-A's fishing boats, the FB Prince Amigo and the FB Megastar I, were allegedly caught off Palawan using the *muro-ami* method and employing child laborers.

Prosecutor Cesar Estolano dismissed the complaint of violation of the Fisheries Code against the boats' owner Primitivo Garcia, Prince Amigo captain Benjamin Baloy, chief mate Lorenzo Gala, boat swain Gregorio Cuerdo a.k.a. "Maestro Abdon" and recruiter Miguel Limpahan.

According to Estolano's resolution, it was not proven that Prime-A used *muro-ami* but *pa-aling*, which is not illegal under the law.

No BFAR witness

"We note that there is no witness from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources who has to determine that the method of fishing used by the respondents is *muro-ami* and not *pa-aling*," the resolution said.

Estolano said the respondents could not also be charged with child labor.

A 15-year-old boy, who was one the children employed in the Prince Amigo, testified that he and several others were brought by Maestro Abdon to sort out fish on Dec. 7, 2000.

The boy's work was to begin in December 2000 until April this year. He was given P1,500 which he sent to his parents in Ayungon, Negros Oriental, and joined the fishing operations in the waters off Palawan, he said.

In his affidavit, the boy said the fishing boat's net was hauled 10 times a day from 4 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Eating, he said, was their only time to rest. They ate dirty corn and drank water taken from rivers, he added. On Dec. 24, 2000, when the boat docked in Caruray, San Vicente, Palawan. Maestro Abdon allowed the children to disembark as it was Christmas eve.

Instead of going back to the boat, they hid in Caruray and they learned that there were many others who had escaped.

The witness said they could not bear the maltreatment and the difficult situation aboard the boat.

After investigating the incident, the National Bureau of Investigation filed charges against the owner and crew of the Prince Amigo.

No weight

The provincial prosecutor, however, did not give weight to the affidavits of the minors.

Estolano's resolution stated that based on the affidavits presented by the respondents, the children were not recruited but presented themselves to the boat captain to get free meals and a "joy ride" during the trip.

The minors, it added, even represented themselves as of legal age.

The 15-year-old witness "joined the vessel so that he could have free meals," the resolution quoted the respondents as saying. While on board, his activities "consisted of eating, sleeping and sometimes swimming in the sea while the group was fishing."

The prosecutor also dismissed the complaint against Garcia, Megastar I boat captain Domingo Doroon, boatswain Pacifico Rondero and recruiter Sofronio Espano.

He said it was not proven that the boat employed the *muro-ami* method and that the children falsified their birth certificates.

Of the 300 workers in the Megastar, 30 were minors.

The children said they were made to work long hours and under inhuman conditions, almost without sleep and with not enough food. from Jan. 24 to Feb. 11.

Disgust

Artemio Sacaguing, NBI chief in Puerto Princesa, expressed dismay over the resolution of Estolano.

In his letter to Piglas, a non-government organization advocating children's rights, Sacaguing said it was the prosecutor's office that insisted that the NBI file the complaint although only the owners of the boats had been identified.

He said the NBI resisted because it still had to know who among the crewmen were responsible.

"We have cured this defect but as you can see now, the prosecutor's office will never run out of excuses when their minds are already set to dismiss any given case," Sacaguing said.

"With the kind of officials here, I can only pray, 'May God have mercy on our beloved province of Palawan.'"

Pumpboat with mercury cargo sinks

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Philippine Navy and the Coast Guard here have launched retrieval operations to salvage a 20-foot motorized banca that sank in the Sarangani Bay on Sunday with some 500 kilograms of smuggled mercury.

One of the boat passengers, identified as Marlon Salatang, an Indonesian, was reported missing as of press time.

The retrieval operations started on Wednesday after Danilo Babol, 27, the boat captain, informed authorities of the incident.

Babol admitted that his boat was overloaded. He said he had agreed to transport a big container from a fishing vessel owned by Romeo Gileg to this city. The container was loaded in the high seas.

Berto Talaba, owner of the boat, claimed that Babol just borrowed the vessel from him and that he was not aware it would be used to transport mercury.

The transport of mercury, which is widely used in small-scale mining to separate gold from the ore, has been banned because of its destructive effects to health and the environment.

Babol said he only knew that the cargo contained mercury when a certain Gilbert Bangat, a trader from Davao City, approached him and threatened to file charges against him for the loss.

Dr. Butch Penamante, city health officer, told reporters that if the toxic metal spills out of the container, it would not only endanger the bay but also the lives of fishermen in the area.

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US proof convinces GMA

(From page A1)

States for the three terrorist attacks.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Nato officials earlier described as "compelling" the evidence against Bin Laden and his network.

Golez said Philippine officials asked Fitts when the United States would strike against Bin Laden, a Saudi militant living under Taliban protection in Afghanistan.

The Taliban rulers have rejected a US demand for them to hand over Bin Laden, prompting the United States and its allies to prepare for an attack on Afghanistan.

According to Golez, Fitts and other US Embassy officials said "they have no indication whatsoever on when the action is going to take place."

Golez gave no other details on the briefing upon the request of US authorities.

Ms Macapagal has expressed strong support for the anti-terrorist global coalition and offered Philippine airspace, airports and sea terminals for use as transit points or staging areas for the US-led forces.

She also said the Philippines was ready to send food, medicine and medical personnel and even deploy combat troops.

Ms Macapagal has also vowed to lead the creation of a regional anti-terrorism coalition along with Malaysia and Indonesia.

Philippine officials are expected to formalize the proposal for the anti-terrorism front in November during the annual summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Brunei.

More evidence

In Washington, US officials said FBI had linked the Sept. 11 hijackers to Bin Laden's network through phone intercepts, money transfers and training camps.

The US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, described to The Associated Press a trail of evidence pointing to Bin Laden's involvement in the attacks by 19 terrorists who crashed four airliners.

Among the key pieces of evidence is a series of money transfers between hijacking ring leader Mohamed Atta and a Middle Eastern man named Mustafa Ahmed.

The last occurred a few days before the hijackings when Atta wired money back to Ahmed in the United Arab Emirates, the officials said.

The FBI believes the transfers may provide a clear link to Bin Laden. Agents are investigating whether Ahmed was an alias for a man named Shayk Saiid that US authorities have long believed helped run Bin Laden's finances, the officials said.

In documents sent to banks seeking to freeze terrorist assets, the government has used Saiid's and Ahmed's names interchangeably.

Ahmed is believed to have left the United Arab Emirates on Sept. 11 for Pakistan and is a major focus of the FBI's global manhunt.

General but vague

Other evidence includes "general but vague" information the CIA developed in August that heightened concerns that Bin Laden was urging his followers to strike on US soil after several attacks overseas in the 1990s.

The information indicated Bin Laden and his supporters "were trying to bring the fight to America" but details were lacking, a US official told AP.

"There was something specific in early August that said to us that he was determined in striking on US soil," the official said, speaking only on condition of anonymity. "But there was nothing about who, when, where or how."

The information prompted the CIA to issue a renewed warning that US interests overseas and at home should be vigilant.

But US intelligence officials, along with congressional officials who have been briefed on the evidence and cooperating foreign intelligence agencies all told AP that the CIA did not possess any information that identified a specific plot of the magnitude that struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"We've got plenty of areas we can improve, but I don't want anybody to get the idea that that was a great intelligence failure," said Rep. Porter Goss, chair of the US House intelligence committee. "If it's anything, it's probably, 'Who would have expected an atrocity of that magnitude?'"

The CIA's August warning is being viewed as a piece in the puzzle of evidence.

Another piece involves a meeting two other hijackers, Khalid Almihdhar and Nawaf Alhazmi, had with a Bin Laden associate in January 2000 in Malaysia.

The meeting was observed and recorded at the time, but its significance was not apparent until just a few weeks before the attacks, officials said. By that time, the two men already were somewhere in the United States.

The Malaysia meeting took on new significance when US investigators developed evidence in Yemen this year that the man the two hijackers met with in 2000 was involved in the planning of the USS Cole bombing.

Intercepted

Other evidence came in the form of intercepted communications.

German authorities have confirmed they intercepted a conversation of Bin Laden supporters celebrating the suicide hijackings.

Another intercept, confirmed by Sen. Orrin Hatch earlier in the investigation, detected a Bin Laden sympathizer indicating that intended targets had been hit on Sept. 11.

American and foreign intelligence services have also gathered information indicating that four of the hijackers were trained at Afghan camps tied to Bin Laden's network.

Officials said the four included Wail Alshehri. Uncorroborated intelligence indicates he received several months of training last year in hand-to-hand combat, bomb-making and poison-mixing at Al Farooq camp in Khandahar, Afghanistan, officials said.

Others linked to Afghan camps included Waleed Alshehri, believed to be a brother of Wail Alshehri, Hamza Alghamdi and Nawaq Alhamzi, the officials said. ***With a report from AP***

Gloria welcomes anti-terror front

(From page A1)

Moro, known as "Pakistani," took part in the abduction of 78 teachers and schoolchildren from Sumisip and Tuburan towns in Basilan on March 20, 2000.

He was arrested on Pilas Island by joint elements of the Naval Task Force 61, the Special Warfare Group team and the Marines, according to Capt. Victor Parawan, deputy commander of the Naval Forces-South Commander.

The proposal to put up a people's network against terrorism came from the Pambansang Kilusan para sa Batayang Sektor, a group headed by Marietta Primicias-Goco. It is composed of several organizations from the basic sectors.

"Your proposal to put up a people's network against terrorism is a good suggestion but I want your group to be the lead convenor for this," the President said in a speech before Premicias-Goco's group.

Civil society

The President said in Filipino that "civil society can help gather information, monitor the activities of organizations that help terrorists and promote understanding among Christians and Muslims."

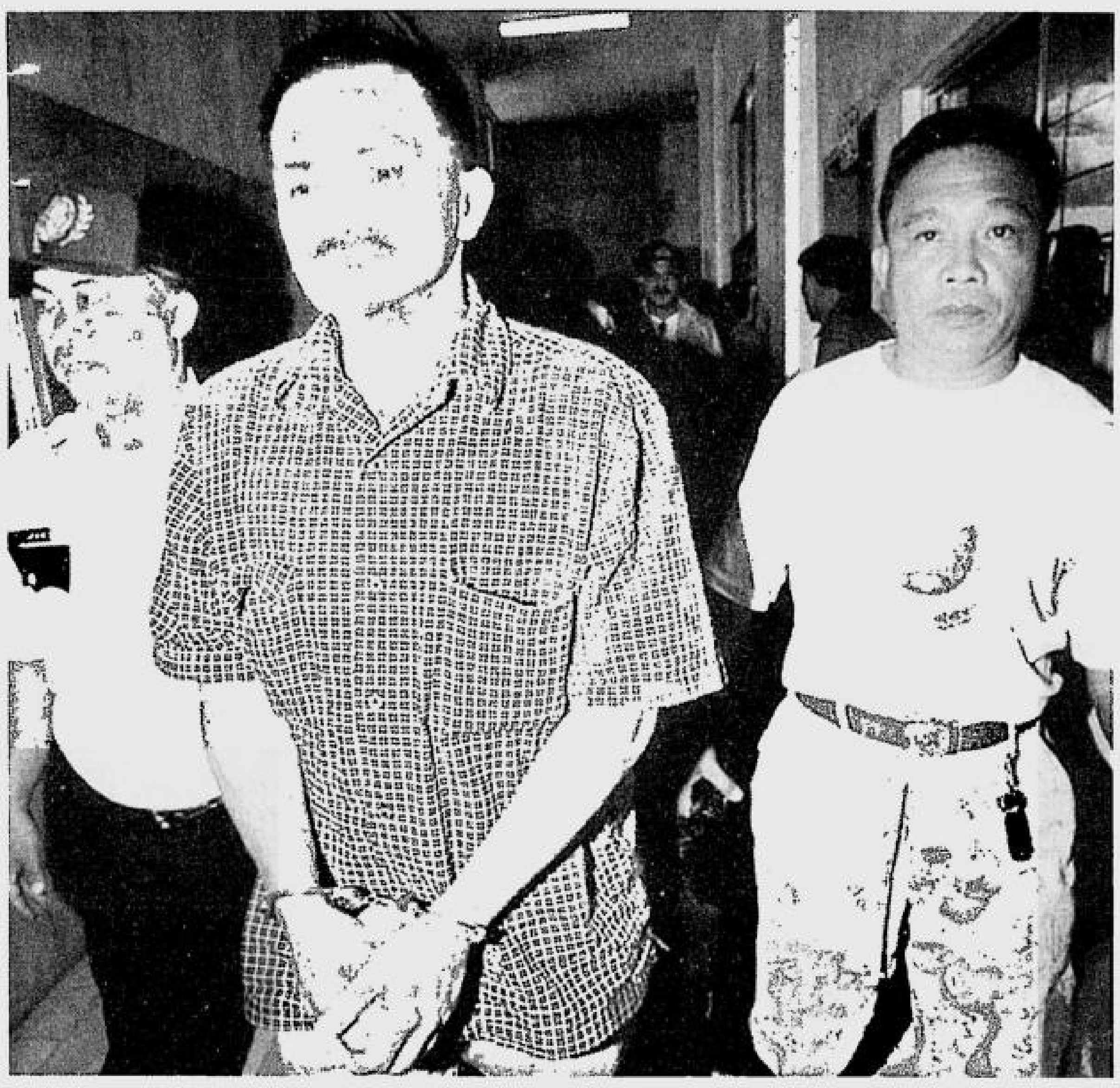
At a press briefing, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said one member of the Abu Sayyaf was killed during military operations that resulted in the arrest of 13 members of the bandit and terrorist group.

"This brings to a total of 178 the Abu Sayyaf members captured since the intensified crackdown on the Abu Sayyaf Group, plus the 90 who surrendered," Golez said.

Since the abduction of three Americans and 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last May, 80 members of the Abu Sayyaf have been killed, according to Golez.

He noted that at least two of the bandits carried a P1-million reward for their capture.

In Zambonga City, Capt. Parawan said Moro was arrested on the basis of joint order of battle issued by the defense department and the interior department and the warrant of arrest issued by Judge Salvador Memoracion of the Regional Trial Court of Basilan.



DAY of reckoning has begun for Abu Sayyaf leader, Nadzmi Saabdulla better known as Commander Global, at his arraignment on Thursday at the Panabo City Hall of Justice in Davao del Norte. RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A carbine was recovered from Moro. He is now detained at the Basilan provincial police office where he is undergoing tactical interrogation.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces Southern Command chief, said the Abu Sayyaf's world was getting smaller following the fall of its leaders one after the other.

'Global' arraigned

In Panabo, Davao del Norte, Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmi Saabdulla, tagged as chief of staff of the bandit group, was arraigned yesterday in connection with the May 22 raid on the Barcelo Pearl Farm Resort on Samal Island.

Saabdulla, known as commander Global, pleaded not guilty for the attack that killed at least three resort workers.

Global, who became the bandit group's spokesperson during the Sipadan crisis last year, was arrested in General Santos City on July 9.

He told the court that he has no participation in the attack on Pearl Farm, a resort owned by Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo Jr.

In an ambush interview, Saabdulla admitted to reporters that he had been an Abu Sayyaf member since 1992 but he denied any involvement in the attack.

"Yes, I am a member of the Abu Sayyaf," a defiant and bearded Saabdulla said.

Asked by reporters where he was when the Pearl Farm was attacked, he said in Filipino "let's talk about it later."

Despite Saabdulla's not guilty plea, the prosecution has "enough and sufficient pieces of evidence," that could prove he that was indeed behind the attack, according to Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera.

Global was wearing his trademark, a checkered polo shirt, when he appeared before Judge Gregorio Palabrica of the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 in Panabo without a lawyer.

Palabrica immediately appointed private lawyer Artemio San Juan, a former provincial board member, to assist Saabdulla in the arraignment.

Global, who had a P5-milion reward on his head, was arrested in July, following a tip off from villagers.

During the entire proceedings, elements of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), who escorted the Abu Sayyaf leader from his detention cell in Camp Aguinaldo, kept a tight watch over Global, amid fears that he would try to escape.

Palabrica scheduled Global's pretrial for Oct. 11, along with three other suspects who had earlier been arraigned.

Suspected Abu Sayyaf members Javier Sampang, 32; Halik Sabdani, 22; and Sartimar (family name withheld), 17, pleaded not guilty in August.

Palabrica ordered that Global be jailed instead at the provincial jail in Tagum City where he would join the three.

At least 18 more suspects in the Pearl Farm attack remain at large.

Russian . . .

(From page A1)

"A civilian aircraft crashed today and it is possible that it is the result of a terrorist act," Putin told a meeting of visiting European justice ministers.

Putin has taken a high-profile position in the international anti-terrorist coalition that has formed following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

After the crash, Israel suspended takeoffs of foreign flights from its main airport, Ben Gurion International, near Tel Aviv.

Bush administration officials quickly contacted their counterparts in Moscow in an attempt to determine whether there was a connection between the explosion and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, or US plans to retaliate.

The plane, a Tupolev 154, went down in pieces 180 kilometers off the Russian coastal city of Adler, located on the Georgian border, said Vasily Yurchuk, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

The plane was on its way from Tel Aviv to the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, Yurchuk said. It belonged to Sibir Airlines, which is based in Novosibirsk, about 2,800 kilometers east of Moscow.

The Emergency Situations Ministry said there were at least 66 passengers and 11 crew members aboard.

Garik Ovanisian, the pilot of an Armenian An-24, said his plane was at 6,300 meters above the Black Sea when the plane above him exploded.

"I saw the explosion on the plane, which was above me at an altitude of 11,000 meters," Ovanisian said. "The plane fell into the sea, and there was another explosion in the sea.

"After that I saw a big white spot on the sea and I had the impression that oil was burning."

Officials at Ben Gurion would not release a passenger list. ***AP***

Show evidence, First Couple dares foes

(From page A1)

the First Gentleman and the President's officials."

Bunye challenged Arroyo's accusers thus: "If they have the documents, I hope they come out with these so that (he) can air his side and clear his name.

"They keep on saying that they have the documents, but they have refused to show these. In the mean time, the media are having a field day at (Arroyo's) expense. This is unfair."

Undisturbed

Asked if the President was disturbed by the allegations against her husband, Tiglao said: "Not at all."

He said she did not even discuss the matter at a staff meeting yesterday but added that "she cannot just keep silent when the First Gentleman's reputation and, of course, the PCSO, is being questioned."

Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the First Couple's eldest child, also said his father was "not shaken or affected" by the allegations.

"I'm confident my dad is innocent. He is open to being investigated because he really wants to clear his name," the young Arroyo told the INQUIRER in San Fernando City.

"Lacson is hitting my dad because he can't find anything wrong with my mom," the vice governor said.

He said Lacson should have "sufficient proof" to back the charges.

The President met with members of the Pambansang Kilusan para sa Batayang Sektor who gathered in Malacañang yesterday morning for a dialogue, but made no mention of the allegations raised against her husband.

But in her speech, she urged the alliance led by Marietta Primicias-Goco to help end the political bickering that she said was hindering the country's progress.

She also thanked the House of Representatives for promising to conduct fewer investigations that would divide the nation during this critical period.

She cited the threat of terrorism as the reason for her call for unity.

"In my (State of the Nation Address last July), I emphasized my call for a moratorium on politicking. I am thankful to Speaker Joe de Venecia, who announced that the House will conduct fewer investigations, especially after the terrorist attacks (on the United States last month)," the President said in Filipino.

She added that in a recent speech, she also raised the "need to regroup and refocus on actually accomplishing things, and not be distracted by bickering and sensationalizing."

The President said what was needed at this time was unity, "not activities to push for various personal interests."

"You can greatly help in this endeavor. You can call for an end to politicking, for politicians to focus their energies on things that need to be done," she said.

Contract

Malacañang appeared to be going on the offensive against the First Gentleman's accusers, particularly Rivero.

Tiglao pointed out that the PCSO did not renew Rivero's contract last August.

Bunye said Rivero had been hired on the basis of a three-month contract that was renewed only once.

Asked why the contract was not renewed, Bunye said: "There were complaints from several journalists that Mr. Rivero was demanding a certain percentage from the PCSO contract with these media outfits."

She said the PCSO investigated the matter and forwarded it to the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel "shortly before (Rivero) came out making these very wild accusations."

Bunye said the First Gentleman's legal team was assessing the issue and was mulling over the possibility of filing a perjury case against Rivero.

Drugs

In Malolos, Bulacan, Pagdanganan expressed doubt that Rivero was telling the truth when he said earlier that he had cut his ties with suspected drug lords Alfredo Tiongco and Florencio Parena.

"There is no truth to (the accusation that I benefited from the supposed PCSO-funded election campaign)," Pagdanganan told the INQUIRER. "In fact, I'm still paying my debts. I doubt if (Rivero) is no longer connected with the drug group. I think the drug lords are behind Rivero's exposé."

Rivero once worked as editor in chief of the Luzon Pen, a Bulacan-based weekly newspaper published by Parena and chaired by Tiongco.

Pagdanganan sued Rivero, Parena and provincial correspondent Art Sampana for libel in 1997. But he withdrew the case after Rivero apologized to him.

Rivero then claimed to have realized the supposed involvement of the Tiongco-Parena group in the illegal drug trade.

But Rivero told the INQUIRER yesterday that he was working as a PCSO consultant when Arroyo ordered him to release P50 million for Pagdanganan's publicity requirements for the May 14 elections.

"He (Pagdanganan) knew that (the budget) was part of the package," Rivero said. "He was aware of the administration's plans that he would get a key Cabinet position in the long run."

Rivero said he decided to resign from the PCSO to publicly accuse Arroyo of the misuse of PCSO funds because he and his family were hurt when the First Gentleman denied knowing him or having worked with him.

"I don't expect much from Rivero. The way he acted lately showed that his character is questionable," Pagdanganan said, adding that Lacson should instead investigate Rivero.

Willing

In Cebu City, Herrera told radio station dyLA that he was willing to face investigation by the Senate in order to help bring out the truth about the alleged misuse of PCSO funds.

He said those found liable should be charged in court, but added that Lacson's allegations should not be given weight.

Herrera said Lacson just wanted a controversy to divert attention from charges that he was engaged in money laundering, kidnapping, drug trafficking, smuggling and murder.

He said that the First Gentleman was not involved in the campaign of the PPC senatorial candidates, and that some of his friends had paid for his advertisements on radio and TV. ***With reports from Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Anti-drug 'vigilante' massacres 6 men

(From page A1)

bloodstains found there belonged to only two of them.

The four other victims were believed to have been killed somewhere else and dumped in Barangay Sacdalan.

Acuña said he had contacted the Nueva Ecija police following reports that the victims were natives of Gapan City.

A relative of one of the victims told the INQUIRER that heavily armed men rounded up 15 men from various houses on Ramos Street at Barangay Santo Niño in Gapan on Oct. 1. The six victims were among those who were picked up.

The raid, the source said, had to do with the drug trade..

Pimentel wanted charges substantiated

(From page A1)

privilege speech," Rivero said.

Rivero admitted that he first brought the matter to Sen. Edgardo Angara, who stood as wedding godfather to him and his wife Janet, in the hope that he could get Angara's Accra law firm to help him out.

As it turned out, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for whom Rivero's wife works as media relations officer, delivered on Wednesday a speech very similar to the draft speech.

Pimentel agreed that what Lacson delivered bore strong similarities to the draft.

He said Rivero brought the matter of the PCSO funds to him last month. But he said he also learned that people in Malacañang had been talking with Rivero.

"I was afraid that when the time comes, I will have no more witness. I don't want that to happen," Pimentel said.

He stuck to his claim that he had never drafted a speech on the matter, but admitted that somebody drafted one in order to make it easy for him to deliver it.

Conspiracy

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the PCSO issue supposedly involving the First Gentleman was a conspiracy between Angara, Lacson and members of their staffs.

Arroyo, who was named in the draft speech as among the four senatorial candidates who supposedly benefited from the PCSO funds, said Wednesday that the one who drafted and distributed copies of the speech was Angara's special counsel Demaree Raval.

"Can (Raval) deny giving it to the (Senate) media center? Is he joking? He better make the denial under oath because he can be disbarred for that," Arroyo said yesterday.

Arroyo also accused Lacson of blackmailing journalists whom Rivero claimed to have included in his list of people receiving money from the PCSO during the May elections.

According to Arroyo, Lacson devoted a page in his speech to the names of journalists supposedly in the PCSO payola, but later decided not to read these out.

Still, he caused copies of the speech to be distributed to reporters.

"This is the sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of media men, for them to refrain from hitting him. This is pure blackmail," Arroyo said.

Arroyo also said Lacson timed his exposé with the forthcoming investigation of his alleged money laundering activities.

"They are picking on the majority one by one to divert the issue of money laundering," Arroyo said.

Proper complaint

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee said Rivero should file charges against the First Gentleman in court instead of issuing "limited revelations" about the alleged fund misuse.

Teehankee said Rivero should gather his evidence and use this to back a "proper complaint" instead of airing his charges in the media.

"A proper complaint should be filed if it could be backed (by evidence because) it is the policy of the President and the Justice Secretary to immediately seek an investigation," Teehankee told reporters in a news conference yesterday.

"It is only fair not to mention names in the media unnecessarily and avoid limited revelations," he added.

Teehankee noted that Rivero had not yet declared a clear link that would establish that the First Gentleman enjoyed any monetary benefit from the alleged fund misuse.

Unless Rivero produces evidence and files a formal complaint, his allegations will likely be considered as another instance of party politics, Teehankee said. ***With a report from Cathy C. Yamsuan***

Marcos: Hero or heel? Debate rages

(From page A1)

About that, Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. reminded Education Secretary Raul Roco and Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac. Both had been upset that schoolchildren in Ilocos Norte observed "Marcos Day" on his death anniversary on Sept. 28.

"No one, even with the noblest intentions, has the right to impose his thoughts and beliefs on others, or to dictate how people should think, what they should believe in and how they should act," Ablan said in a statement.

One of the longtime confidants of Marcos, Ablan chided Roco for restricting "the right of schoolchildren to seek facts, make their own judgments and think freely about men and events in our history."

"(Roco's comment) was a clear assault on academic freedom," Ablan said.

The Ilocos Norte congressman also charged that Yorac was ignorant of the "real sentiments, thoughts and beliefs of Ilocos Norte about Marcos."

Intolerance

Ablan added that Yorac showed "arrogant intolerance of beliefs and sentiments about (Marcos) that are contrary to her own and (also her) unabashed lack of respect for the right of the people of Ilocos Norte to think and choose what to believe in and what to do in regard to the late President."

"The time of our government officials could be better spent in addressing our people's demand for effective, efficient and responsive public service rather than being wasted on initiatives that smack of political hatred, bigotry and prejudice," Ablan said.

He noted that, for Ilocos Norte folk, Marcos was the "embodiment of excellence, learning, scholarship, courage, leadership and patriotism."

Rights

"No one has the right to say the people of Ilocos Norte have no right to honor the memory of a President they truly love and continue to embrace as their own," Ablan said.

Ablan's broadside remarks came after Roco commented to education reporters that "Marcos failed" and that this was what should be taught to schoolchildren.

Roco had made the comment after Yorac criticized the Department of Education, Culture and Sports for allowing Ilocos Norte teachers to teach schoolchildren to revere Marcos and allow them to participate in the Marcos family's private commemoration of the dictator's death anniversary.

Ablan also opposed Roco's order to review textbooks that might contain "distortions of facts and values" about the martial law regime and the tenure of former President Joseph Estrada.

"The heart of democracy is freedom of thought and freedom of choice," he said.

Ablan added that while Marcos "had been accused of various offenses . . . he was never convicted of any of these offenses other than supposition and hysterical charges fuelled by political hatred and bigotry."

Tiglao not told on new Golez job

(From page A1)

where the matter was supposedly decided.

"As I am saying, I'm frank about it. I'm not aware that a spokesperson for international terrorist . . . international terrorism or al-Qaida activities (had been appointed)," he said, laughing this time.

During his earlier briefing, Golez distributed a written statement about the call made by US Chargé d'Affaires Robert Fitts on the President to brief her about evidence linking Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network to the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

At the bottom of the page, Golez put a separate item announcing his appointment.

"Accordingly, the NSA (National Security Adviser) shall respond to queries from media and the general public regarding concerns about international terrorism and shall give media briefings as necessary," Golez said in the statement.

Golez added that he and Tiglao would "consult each other in the performance of this duty."

It was not explained why Tiglao was kept in the dark about Golez's appointment or why Golez was appointed at all.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, there was at least one instance when Golez refused to confirm what Tiglao had said about the issue. This was when Tiglao confirmed to reporters that the United States had already made a request for the use of the facilities in Subic and Clark in the US campaign against Bin Laden.

Golez at that time insisted that there was no request and that he could not talk about the matter for security reasons. But he said that Tiglao belonged to the same "security loop" that is aware of what is going on.

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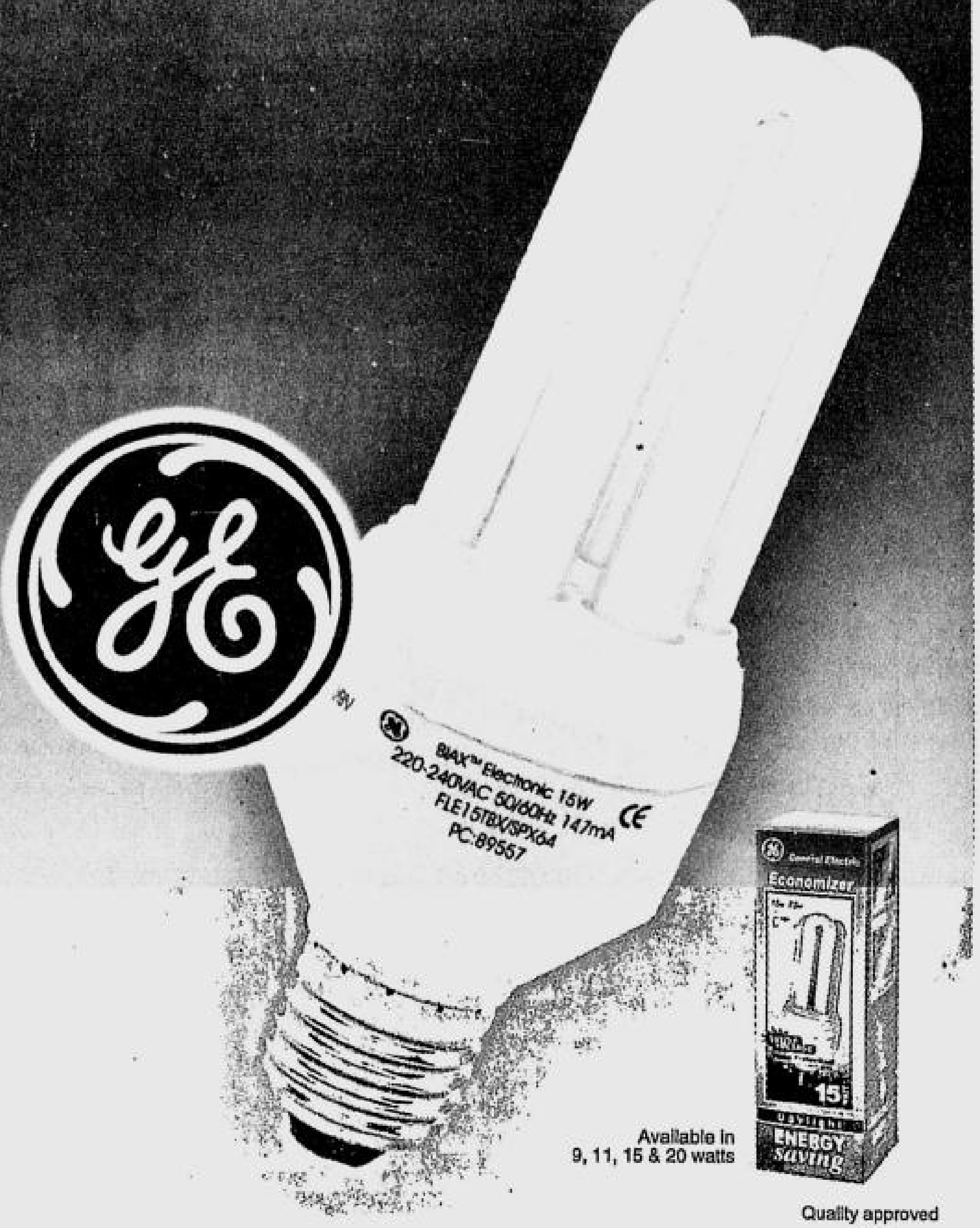
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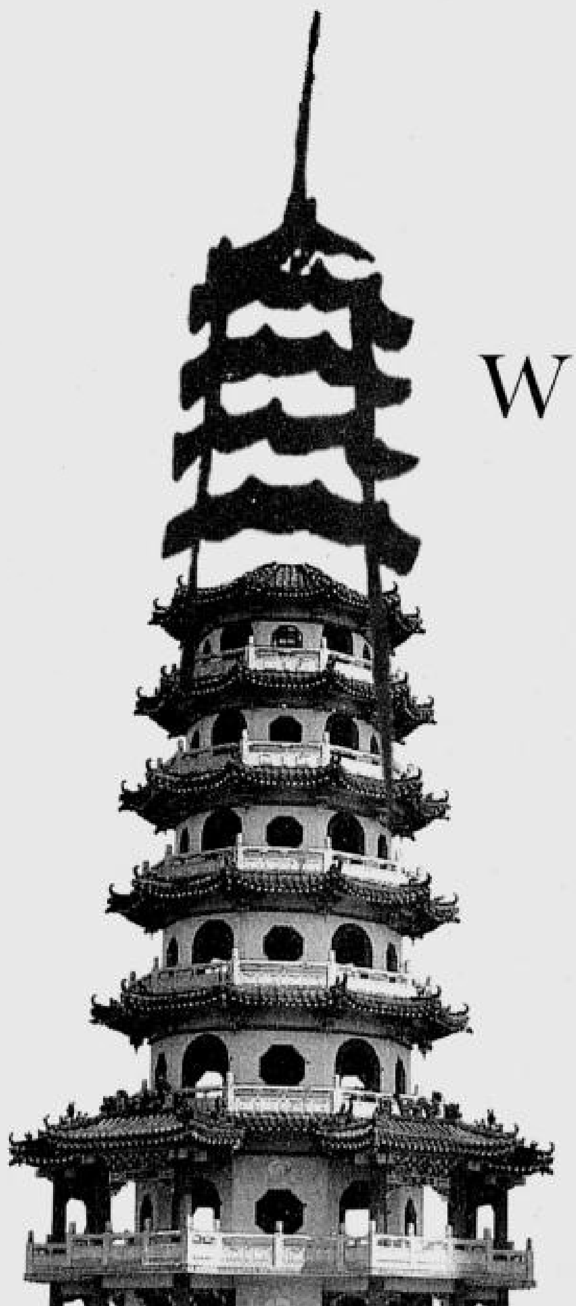
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Unbeaten Sta. Lucia battles Ginebra

Standings	W	L		W	L
Sta. Lucia	5	0	Shell	2	2
Talk N Text	4	2	Red Bull	2	3
Pop Cola	4	2	San Miguel	2	3
Ginebra	3	2	Tanduay	1	4
Purefoods	3	3	Alaska	0	5

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Pop Cola d. Talk N Text, 80-74
Purefoods d. Red Bull, 92-82

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:05 p.m.—Shell vs Pop Cola
7:10 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Ginebra

STA. Lucia stakes its unbeaten slate today against dangerous Barangay Ginebra in the PBA Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Realtors, waving a 5-0 record, are up against the Ginebras who are aiming to climb higher in the standings with their 3-2 mark, good for solo fourth.

They clash at 7:10 p.m. after the 5:05 p.m. match between Shell and Pop Cola.

Pop coach Chot Reyes has boasted of having found the formula to beat teams with taller and heftier lineups.

"All I can say is we're getting better and better against the bigger guys," said Reyes, whose Panthers humiliated the height-laden Talk N Text Phone Pals, 80-74, on Wednesday.

That conquest positioned the Panthers to a 4-2 bind with the Phone Pals at second and will be gunning for a fifth straight victory, a goal they relished during last year's Commissioner's Cup eliminations.

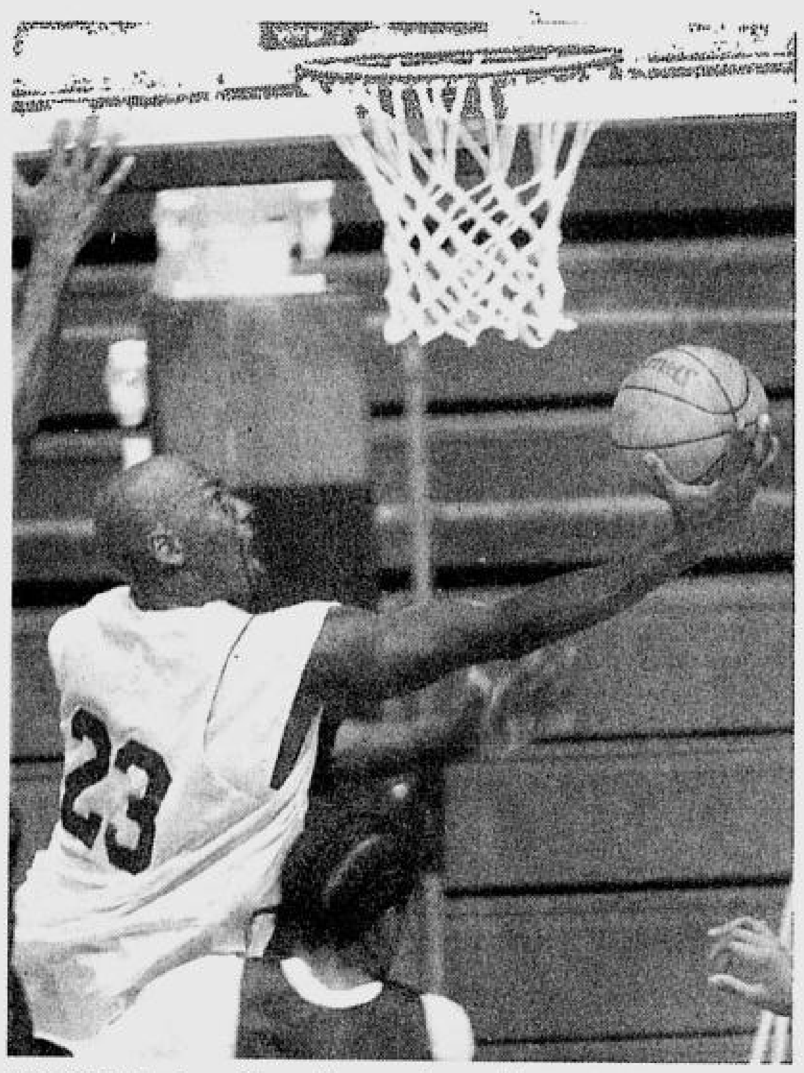
At any rate, the Turbo Chargers are out to bolt out of inconsistency after splitting their last four matches, the last coming off a 95-94 squeaker over Purefoods a week ago.

They barely survived Noy Castillo's 19-point explosion—17 of which were the Hotdogs' last points in the final period—after Dale Singson made a crucial steal and a basket as Shell completed the great escape.

The Realtors are fast turning the league into a boring spectacle as they easily disposed off their opponents one after the other.

Their latest victims, the Alaska Aces, got tired playing catch-up all game long and yielded a 103-98 decision against the Realtors.

Meanwhile, The Aces will parade a new import in Ron Riley, who will replace the ineffective Dexter Boney. The Aces are occupying the cellar with a 0-5 record.



MICHAEL Jordan glides with an undergoal layup during an evening workout with the Washington Wizards yesterday. Jordan is making a second comeback to the NBA after retiring in 1998. AFP

San Juan targets repeat over Davao

SECOND PHASE
Standings

Northern Conference	W	L
LBC Batangas	5	0
Andok's San Juan	3	1
FedEx Laguna	3	3
N. Ecija	2	4
Southern Conference	**W**	**L**
Negros	3	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	2	2
TPG Davao	0	2
Socsargen-Taguig	0	5

GAMES TODAY *(Tinga Gym, Taguig)*
3:00 p.m.—San Juan vs Davao
5:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Socsargen

FOR the Andok's San Juan Knights, beating the TPG Davao Eagles again should not be that difficult. After all, they routed the Eagles, 108-81, in their first meeting in the MBA Second Phase on Friday.

At 3 p.m. today, the Knights will try to duplicate that feat and continue their recovery after dropping their first game.

Counting their 104-80 conquest of the Nueva Ecija Patriots on Wednesday, the Knights hold a 3-win, 1-loss record in the Northern Conference.

The Knights' power will be further boosted by the return of 6-foot-4 power forward Gilbert Castillo today. Castillo served a one-game suspension for a punching foul on TPG Davao's Richard Caliao.

The Eagles, in transition owing to the presence of four new players, will again have difficulty matching up with the taller Knights.

Cebuana Lhuillier tangles with cellar-dweller Socsargen-Taguig in the second game at 5:30 p.m.

'Every dog has his day'

WILMINGTON, North Carolina—Michael Jordan displayed some skillful moves here Wednesday but the first media-viewed practice action of his comeback showed he still has a lot of work ahead. Journalists were allowed into the final minutes of a private Washington Wizards training camp scrimmage and saw Jordan make two nifty moves but also lose control of the ball and make a defensive foul in a losing effort. "Every dog has his day," Jordan said. "Young kids start stalking me and all the rest. I love the competition. As much as they take advantage of me, there are times I'm able to use my abilities to take advantage of them."

Jordan's white shirts trailed blue-clad rivals 76-70 with 3:26 to play when off the bench came the former Chicago Bulls star, making a comeback at 38 after a three-year National Basketball Association hiatus. *AFP*

Spring, Shark advance

FORMER PBA import Bobby Parks powered Spring Cooking Oil's third quarter breakaway to pull a 96-85 upset over Hapee Toothpaste yesterday to clinch a finals berth in the 1st PBL Open Invitational at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym.

Parks exploded with an all-around performance of 25 points, 11 rebounds, four assists, five steals and two blocks as he orchestrated the Cooking Oil Masters' rousing 16-4 breakaway and never looked back from there to the delight of team owner and national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

Shark bucked a sloppy start and played steadier down the stretch to oust Blu Detergent from contention, 86-80, and join Spring in the three-way finals.

The Cooking Oil Masters and the Energy Boosters will clash at 10 a.m. today at the Makati Coliseum.

Shell's Jao virtual BRC champ

Overall standings after 10 rounds:
1. J. Jao (Shell Advance-YRS) 165 points; 2. T. Alberto 113; 3. R. Relativo 77; 4. R. Scott 41; 5. R. Chua 25; 6-8 J. Andrews, Ber. Mendoza, Ben. Mendoza 0.

ROSARIO, Batangas–Nothing can stop Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-YRS Racing Team now.

Riding his trusty Yamaha R6, Jao swept the ninth and 10th rounds in the expert open category to virtually clinch the overall title in the National Super Bike Championships 2001 before a big weekend crowd at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Jao defeated perennial rivals Toti Alberto and Rey Relativo twice during the daylong competition organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

"*Masayang-masaya ako*. I really prepared very hard for it and I'm happy that all my efforts paid off," said Jao, who holds the distinction as the only local rider to win the overall titles in motocross, scooter and road racing.

So impressive was Jao that he clocked 26 minutes and 15.728 seconds in the nymph round, 8.417 seconds faster than Alberto. His fastest lap time was 1:27.071 in the third lap.

The back-to-back triumphs in the 2.8 kilometer racetrack gave the 35-year-old pride of Marikina a 10-round aggregate of 165 points based on the 25-20-16-13-11 scoring system.

Alberto is a far second overall with 113 points.

The rest of the campaigners, including Rey Relativo and Rod Scott, are too far behind in the overall standings to pose a threat to Jao.

Jao, who attributed his success to Shell Advance's race-track proven motorcycle oil and Yamaha's advanced racing technology, can afford to skip the final two rounds scheduled later this month and still win the title pulling away.

But the former skating champion vowed to close out his campaign in style. "*Pipilitin ko pa ring manalo sa huling dalawang karera alang-alang sa aking mga tagasuporta*," said Jao.

Shell Advance-YRS team manager Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio cited Jao's determination as "one of the major reasons for another successful campaign this year."

SPORTSWATCH

Football elims on

RODRIGUEZ, Rizal—Four games will kick off the Rizal provincial Coke-Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations at 8 a.m. today at the San Jose Elementary School field here. It will be defending champion Taytay National High against Maximo M. Gatlabayan High, Antipolo National High against Rizal State College, Gen. Licerio Geronimo Memorial National High against Faith Christian School and Baras National High against Vicente Madrigal National High. Meanwhile, defending champion De La Salle Zobel heads 11 other teams which will vie in the NCR eliminations starting on Oct. 14 at the Ateneo de Manila field.

Remembering Alfie

MEMBERS of the Forest Hills team will wear black ribbons in honor of belated teammate and Downtime club champion Alfie Almario when they host Manila Golf tomorrow in a home-and-away duel kicking off the quarterfinals of the Federation League 2001. Almario, a former professional cager who died Wednesday morning after a heart attack, was unbeaten in the seven games he had played and was the main factor in Forest Hills' capture of the top spot in Group II. Vic Guzman, manager of Forest Hills, said that the whole team will gather in the first tee-box for a minute of silence before the 10 a.m. match.

Pareb golfest Oct. 24

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Realtors Boards Inc. (Pareb) will hold a tournament on Oct. 24 at Camp John Hay Golf & Country Club, Baguio City. Tee off time is 12 noon. System 36 will be used. The event will be followed by the 41st National Convention and Election on Oct. 25-27 at the Baguio Country Club. Call Manuel Evangelista at 810-1297, 810-1806 or 810-1256 for details.

Bonds breaks mark

SAN DIEGO, California—Barry Bonds, Rickey Henderson and Japan's Ichiro Suzuki set Major League Baseball records on a historic night that might only serve as a preview of greater things to come. San Francisco slugger Bonds barely saw a tempting pitch as he remained one home run shy of matching the major league record of 70 in a season, but was walked three times to break a one-season mark set by Babe Ruth in 1923. "Please, please pitch to my daddy," Bonds' daughters implored from their front-row seats in vain, although the Giants took advantage of the free passes to Bonds for an 11-8 triumph at Houston.

FVR, Pagunsan International Golf guests

THE WORLD'S biggest brands in golf equipment, accessories, apparel and buggies put their top-of-the line brands up for scrutiny as local merchants raise the curtains for the sixth edition of the Philippine International Golf Show today at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

Former president Fidel V. Ramos, MMDA chair and Wack Wack president Ben Abalos, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos and Southeast Asian games gold medalist Juvic Pagunsan will grace the opening ceremonials at 10 a.m.

Officials of the organizing Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines led by its president Raymund Atendido and exhibit chair Karina Herrera will be on hand to welcome the special guests.

Atendido announced yesterday that more than 60 companies directly related to the golf industry are joining one of Asia's trade exhibits for golf and they will be doing their own promotional activities in the next three days.

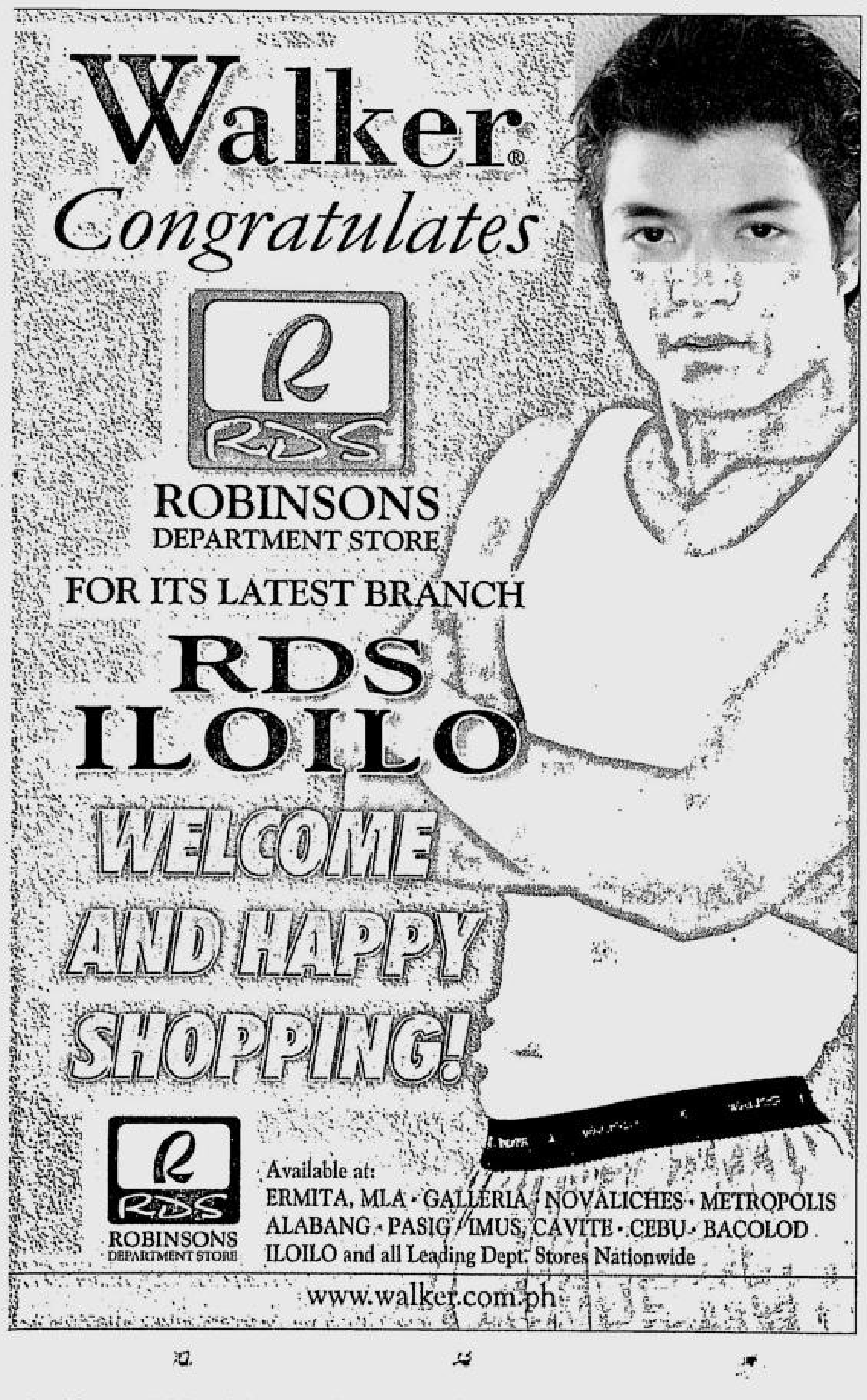
The exhibitors:

Acro Industrial Development & Construction Corp., Aldiz, BSP, Besa's Shoes, BOOMbayan.com, Carica Health Producers, Club Panoly Resort Inc., CPM Golf Corp., Dale Starr Enterprises, Direct Link Insurance, Dunlop Slazenger International,Dynamic Sports Corp., ECI Golf/Callaway, ECI Battery System, Formost, Fort Ilocandia Resort & Casino, GG & A Club Shares, Gainer's Marketing Corp., Golf House Inc., Hawaiian Tropic, IFCA (Information for Competitive Advantage;

IGRI "Clark" Industries, Infratex, Inquirer Golf Monthly, Jack Nicklaus, Kart Plaza, Master Sports-Mizuno, Pacsports, Pearl Pacific World of Leisure, Pinnacle Distributors Inc., Pagcor, Philippine Golf Development & Equipment, Philippine Tourism Authority, Planet Sports, Pro-IGear Golf, PX Depot Wines & Golf, Racks, Riviera Golf & Country Club, SCL World Net Inc., Sunrise Holiday Concepts Inc., Taylor Made, Adidas Golf Company, Taytan International, The Golf Library, The Golf Authority, Travel Carousel, Travel Bug, WS Sports Inc.

Blaze exotic

MAJOR sponsor Petron Corporation will stage the 9th Blaze Exotic Cars Slalom on Oct. 7 in the Motorshow International at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard. To win, drivers will have to go through a designed course and finish with the least time and deductions. Petron is also hosting an Ultron Car Clubs Meet on Oct. 7. Petron will also conduct emission testing on Oct. 6.



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Suarez to host Roligon derby

RESPECTED cocker-businessman Peping Suarez will host today's Joshua 5-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Cockers from Metro Manila and nearby provinces have confirmed their participation in this derby. Among them are members of the Ucap, William Go, Vic Yu, Joey delos Santos, Dennis del Rosario, lawyer Rudy Salud, Emoy Gorgonia, Jessie Cabalza, Mayor Bunoy, Bobby del Rosario, Philip Chiongbian, and many others.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty announced that weights between 1.7 kg and 2.1 kg must be submitted on the day of the derby from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

He also said all stags that have passed the screening of Mimi Itchon and Juancho Aguirre shall be accepted in this derby which will present no less than 50 fights.

Other 4-stag derbies scheduled at Roligon are: Oct. 13-Bench by Ben Chan, Oct. 20-Mangzee by Bobby del Rosario and Oct. 30-"Tukaan" by Emoy Gorgonio.

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Race 4—1. Regal Mischief 2. Talk To Patsy 3. Let Me Pass 4. Timeless Beauty 5. Princess Malinda 6. Sham Sham
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Race 6—1. Alexander 2. Lorna 3. Dixie Dancer 4. All Smiles/Tumataginting 5. Wine and Roses
Race 7—1. Race for Gold 2. Noble House 3. Choice For Change 4. Raise A Fire 5. Standout 6. Yours Truly
Race 8—1. Burning Light 2. First of All 3. Free Time 4. Inner Wheeler 5. Ann's Magic
Race 9—1. Another Sam 2. Count Me In 3. Ohio Gozalmas 4. Miggy 5. Aurora Borealis 6. Native Talent

Cockers of goodwill

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT has been asked, again and again: Is cockfighting gambling or sport?

The answer is simple: It is gambling to most people, but an honest sport to others, including key members of the National Cockers Association, the most prestigious and respected organization of cockfighting buffs in the Philippines.

"I don't bet much," said dapper Nene Araneta, an NCA stalwart and owner of the world-famous Araneta Coliseum. "I just love the thrill of breeding winning gamefowl."

The others, who are cockfighting fanciers but do not consider it as gambling, include Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, big boss of San Miguel Corp.; NCA president Ito Ynares, a three-term governor of vote-rich Rizal province; two-time Cocker of the Year Jun "Idol" Santiago, Pampanga's well-known Jun and Rudy Jingco, popular lawyer Rudy Salud, the Madlambayan brothers, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Iking Araneta and noted breeder Boy Jiao.

"I don't bet at all. Still I bet a little when my own breed is fighting," said soft-spoken Jiao, who typifies the true Filipino *sabungero* for being fair and honest. "*Maganda kasi ang* feeling every time my battle bird wins." Boy's favorite is his signature BJ grey.

In the Philippine cockfighting scene, the NCA is appreciated more for staging quality derbies at the Big Dome. But unbeknownst to many, the solid rock association has, through the years, been setting aside a big portion of its earnings to help the less fortunate members of the community, including the funding of scholarship grants to poor and deserving students.

For this year, the association has granted scholarships to six students at Miriam academy for computer science and to three others at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

Last year, NCA scholars Farida Erfe and Rezin Bahia graduated among the top of their class at UP-Los Baños, both finishing a course in veterinary medicine where the demand for their professional services is high. The new graduates later on thanked their benefactors and cockers of goodwill at the Big Dome for sending them to college.

"Ako po ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa inyong ginintuang puso, sa lahat ng nagsasabong dito sa Big Dome, lalung-lalu na kay Gobernor (Ito) Ynares,, kay ginoong Nene Araneta at Jun Santiago (I'm truly grateful to all cockers at the Big Dome for their hearts of gold, most especially to Govenor Ynares, Nene Araneta and Jun Santiago)," said a teary-eyed Erfe during an impromptu thank-you speech before cockfighting aficionados at the Araneta Coliseum. Erfe, a petite morena of many talents, is the daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Fernando Erfe of Binmaley, Pangasinan, while Bahia, is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Rizaldo Bahia of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Aside from Erfe and Bahia, the other NCA scholar-graduates were Roseller Falconite, John Fragata, Richard Dizon, Thelma Torio, Irene Ugto and Jennifer Bumagat.

* * *

For inquiries, call telefax (044) 93301214.

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Philta Classic V Oct. 13

REGISTRATION is now ongoing for the Philta Classic V age group tournament slated Oct. 13-14 and Oct. 19-21 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Players may register with Loida Mallari at the Philta offices (Tel. 525-64-34). Deadline of entry is on Oct. 11 at 12 noon. The Group 2 event is supported by FedEx, U-Freight, Aboitiz Quik Pac and Pacific East Asian Cargo Airlines.

Stags Scoop guests today

NEWLY crowned NCAA champion San Sebastian Stags take centerstage today in the weekly Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (Scoop) forum at the Kamayan West Avenue. Coach Turo Valenzona, San Sebastian athletic moderator Frank Gusi will join the forum. Session starts at 10:30 a.m. and will be aired over Sports Radio 918AM.

MEMBRERE TRIPLE IS KEY

Ateneo stops La Salle, forces Game 3

By DENNIS U. EROA

HARD-FIGHTING Ateneo unveiled a new-found endgame poise to thwart defending champion La Salle, 76-72, last night, sending the UAAP best-of-three championship series to a decider before a jampacked crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Power-playing Enrico Villanueva bulldozed his way to 22 points, including 12 of 14 free throws on top of 11 rebounds, but the big lift for Ateneo came from veteran Rainier Sison and steel-nerved Magnum Membrere.

Sison and Membrere became chief authors of Ateneo's endgame poise, delivering bombs that shattered La Salle's growing myth of invincibility.

Sison sank a clutch jumper and then Membrere boomed for a triple that broke a 72-all deadlock for a 75-72 Ateneo bulge, derailing La Salle's bid to wrap up its fourth straight plum.

After La Salle's Mike Cortez tied it with a twisting layup, 72-72, a double-teamed Villanueva wisely found Membrere, who let loose a cannon-like shot which pierced La Salle's pride, 75-72, 52 seconds left.

Ren Ren Ritualo, who had a miserable shooting night with a 3 of 12 clip from the three-point area, then missed his third straight triple attempt, hastening La Salle's downfall.

The no-more tomorrow clash between the country's two bitterest collegiate rivals has yet to be decided by the UAAP board. The Green Archers ruled Game 1 on Oct. 27, 74-68.

"I admire the boys. They were able to regroup," said Ateneo coach Joe Lipa.

This was the first time in four tries this year that the Eagles beat the Green Archers.

In the first game, spitfire Jun Cortez drilled 34 points as the University of Santo Tomas Tiger Cubs swept the junior best-of-three title series with an 89-79 victory over titleholders Ateneo Blue Eaglets. The Tiger Cubs also won Game 1, 69-67.

But the biggest cheers were reserved for the gutsy Blue Eagles, who even fell behind by eight, 64-56, 8:40 left on Ritualo's three-point shot.

Unlike in the past, though, the Eagles did not panic and not even the ouster of Lewis Alfred Tenorio due to fouls three minutes left, affected their game.

Four straight points by Cortez enabled the Archers to deadlock the game, 70-70, but Sison, now in his last year as an Eagle, responded with a jumper, 72-70, as the Eagles stayed in command.

The absence of 6-foot-6 slotman Carlo Sharma, who was serving out a suspension, also took its toll on the Archers as Villanueva, Rich Alvarez and Paolo Bugia were able to dominate the boards, 42-26.

Ateneo's shock troopers worked wonders and the Blue Eagles seized the initiative in the first half.

Reliever Cris Quimpo, Hernando Elmido and Bugia held La Salle at bay even as Sison tossed in two triples as Ateneo raced to a 33-22 lead, 4:27 left.

Then came La Salle's patented windup.

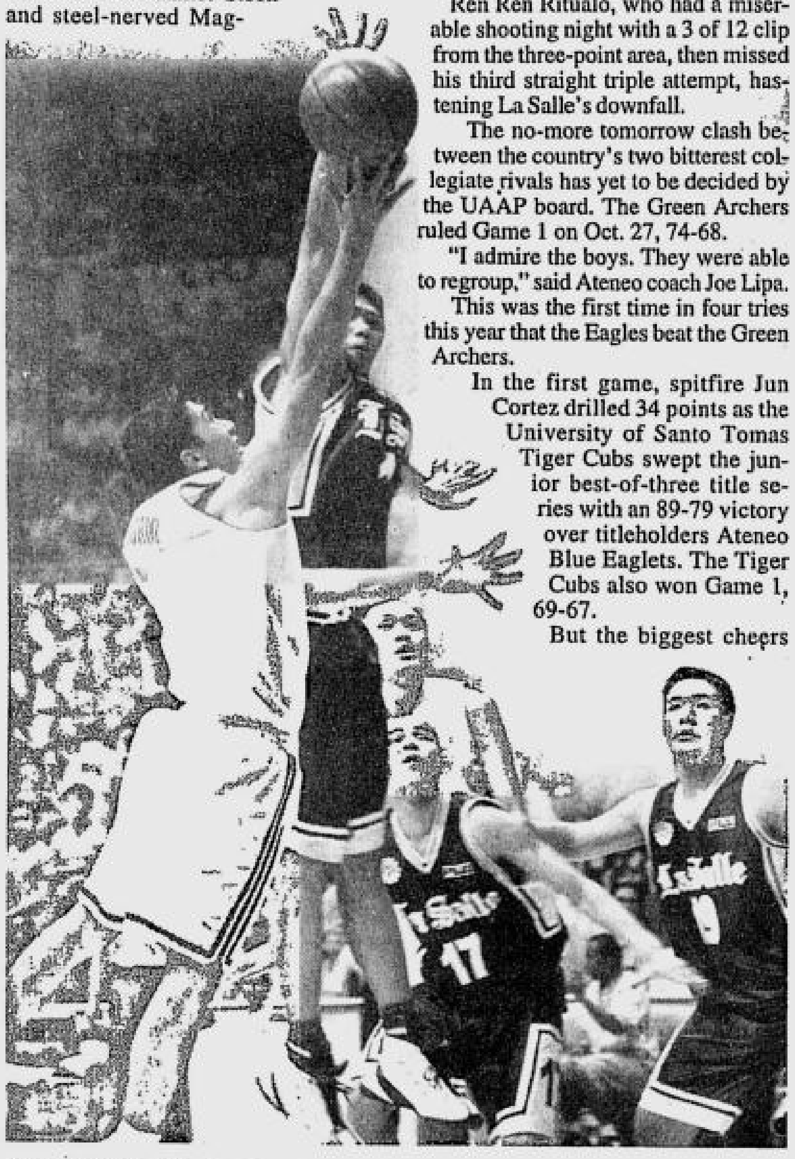
Unbeatable in transition, the Green Archers, getting seven points from BJ Manalo, retaliated with a 13-4 blast as they crept closer, 35-37, before Andrew Cruz gave Ateneo a breather, 35-39, at the half.

Scores:

ATENEO 76—Villanueva 22, Alvarez 13, Sison 12, Membrere 7, Bugia 7, Tenorio 6, Cruz 4, Fonacier 3, Quimpo 1, Tanchi 1, Elmido 0.

LA SALLE 72—Ritualo 16, Cardona 16, Cortez 13, Wilson 7, Ramos 7, Manalo 7, Sta. Maria 6, Yeo 0, Gavino 0.

Quarters: 18-12, 39-35, 56-59, 76-72.



LA SALLE'S Adonis Sta. Maria blocks a driving LA Tenorio of Ateneo in this piece of action during yesterday's UAAP Finals. Ateneo prevailed, 76-72, to level their best-of-three series at 1-1. The winner-take-all game is set next week.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Alvarez MVP anew

ATENEO'S Richard Alvarez won his second straight MVP award, while Mark Cardona of La Salle was adjudged rookie of the year in yesterday's UAAP awarding of top individual performers.

The 6-foot-4 Alvarez, who was also voted by the UAAP Press Corps as defensive player of the year, joined slotman Enrico Villanueva, Leonides Avenido of Far Eastern University, Froilan Baguion of National University and Ren Ren Ritualo of La Salle to the mythical five.

By choosing Cardona, the UAAP board has virtually given its stamp of approval to his eligibility. Cardona's academic records came under scrutiny from some members of the board at the height of La Salle's four-peat campaign.

Manny Dandan, who coached National University to the Final Four, was the unanimous choice of the press corps and ABA Philippines as coach of the year, while Baguion emerged as most improved player.

La Salle's Willy Wilson was named Mr. Quality Minutes, with Mike Cortez as sportsmanship awardee. Cardona headed the all-rookie team composed of Kenneth Robin (University of the Philippines), Mark Abadia (Adamson), Rene de Guzman (University of Santo Tomas) and Ateneo's Lewis Alfred Tenorio. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Fans force out Tyson

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—Mike Tyson was forced to leave a Copenhagen nightclub 20 minutes after arriving because a group of fans tried to enter the bar to get a glimpse of the boxer, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The former heavyweight champion, who is in town for the Oct. 13 fight against Brian Nielsen of Denmark, and his entourage visited the Madame Pim nightclub in the Danish capital's red-light district late Tuesday, the Ekstra Bladet newspaper said.

"Tyson saw the show and had something to drink and (ate) a lot of chips," the owner identified as Pim was quoted as saying by the daily. On the stage were some of the Thai dancers that work in the club.

"He is so cute and so gorgeous," Pim said.

The rumor about Tyson's presence in the nightclub spread quickly and young people rushed to the downtown club, the report said. His bodyguards first managed to lock the entrance door and kept people at bay, but fans then tried to enter the street-level club through the windows. *AP*

Holyfield-Ruiz removed from China

NEW YORK—John Ruiz will defend the WBA heavyweight title against Evander Holyfield in the United States instead of China.

Promoter Don King said Wednesday he received a letter from HBO stating it was concerned about sending 100 people to China in the wake of a travel warning issued by the State Department after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

King said the fight, to be televised by HBO, will be either Nov. 24 or Dec. 15, at a site to be determined. He mentioned Atlanta, Boston, the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, and Las Vegas as possibilities.

"Based on the uncertainty that exists and the advisory issued by the State Department on international travel we decided the prudent course was to not travel overseas at this time," said Ross Greenburg, president of HBO Sports. "We told Don that we would like to telecast the fight on Nov. 24 from a US site."

"I am very disappointed," King said in a telephone interview. "Hopefully, I'll put a fight on there in the future."

King added that the Great Wall International Sports Media Company would get the telecast free of charge. Great Wall was to co-promote the fight, which originally was scheduled for Aug. 5, but was called off because of a neck injury to Ruiz. *AP*

Olympic security: $40M

WASHINGTON—Winter Olympics organizers came to Capitol Hill to press for money for enhanced security measures and to promise a safe gathering in Salt Lake City in February.

The heightened security, including more metal detectors, video surveillance and plainclothes federal agents, will cost up to $40 million more, the organizers said Wednesday.

The additional funding would bring federal spending on the Games to about $310 million—more than three times the federal security spending for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

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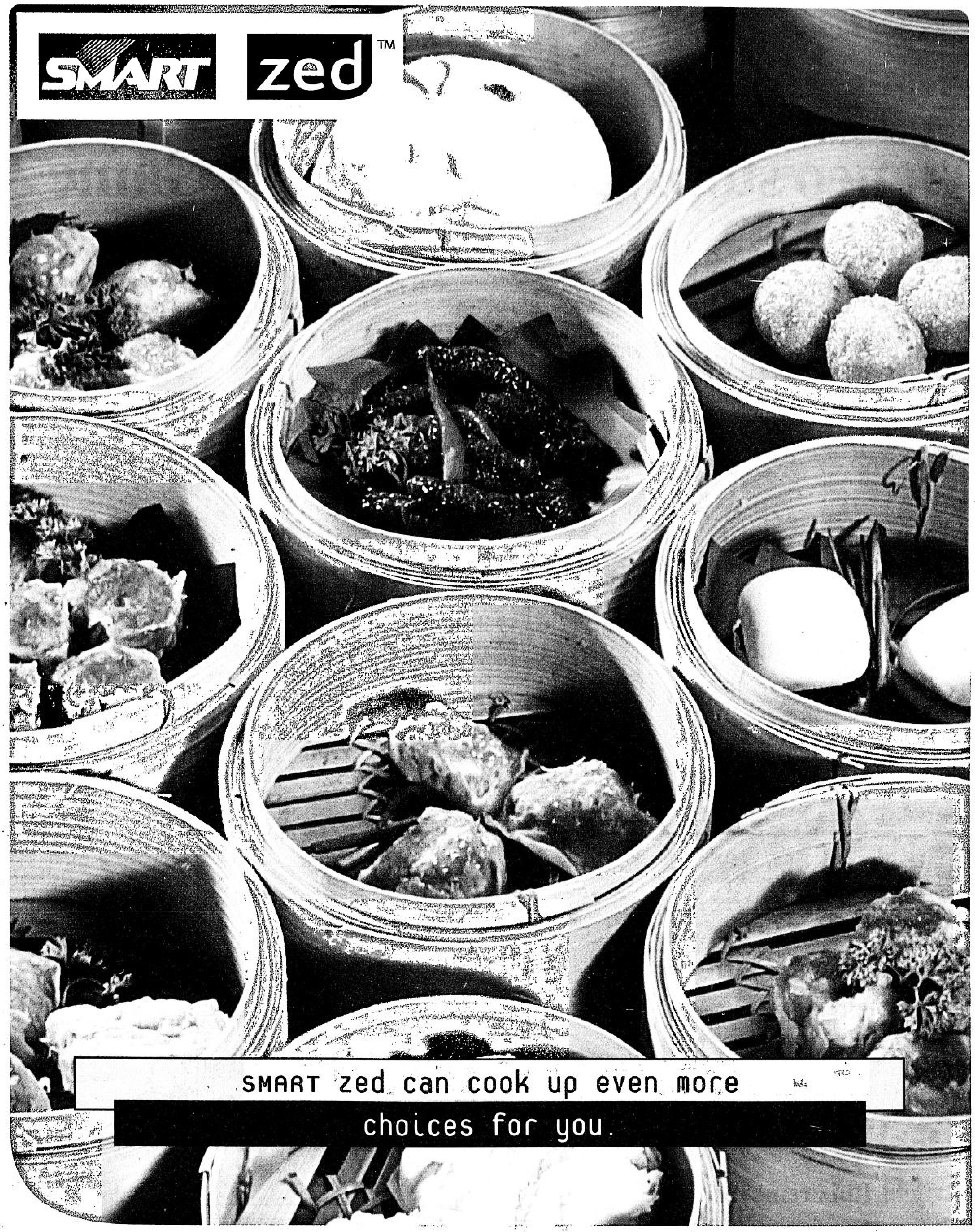
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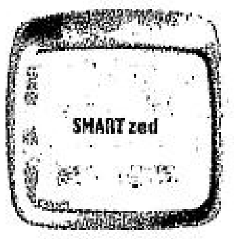

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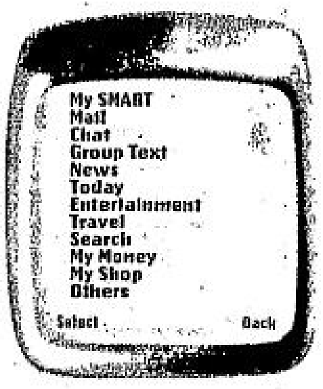
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- Bare Eye: Spotlight on Mike Arroyo, Go Teng Kok, Butch Tuason A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- Manila Water, too, will raise rates A26
- Holdup men shoot 2 A26

5 slain in botched buy-bust job

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA, JEROME ANING AND NELSON F. FLORES

A BUY-BUST operation of the National Bureau of Investigation turned into a bloodbath Wednesday night when an NBI agent, a woman, and two men were killed in a shootout in North Fairview, Quezon City.

NBI agents also arrested five suspects and killed one of them allegedly for trying to escape in Pasay City.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Police District director, identified the dead as NBI Narcotics Division special investigator Teddy Col-coli, Soledad Guzman, 40, of Barrio Sta. Maria, Talisay, Batangas; Daniel Domingo, 16, and Alvin Bantuas.

5 SLAIN/ A26

Stars, fans troop to Ricky's wake

BY AGNES DONATO

THEY supported him as an actor and they did not desert him in his death.

Only two hours after the remains of actor Ricky Belmonte (Jesus "Jessie" Cruz in real life) arrived at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Makati City on Wednesday morning, his fans, fellow stars as well as the merely curious started coming, according to Patricia Carbojosa, Belmonte's constant companion and aide.

"They got here at almost the same time as Jessie's family members," Carbojosa told the INQUIRER. "Most of them were crying and still could not believe that he's dead."

Belmonte's body arrived at Loyola five hours after he died of a massive stroke at the Parañaque Medical Center at 4 a.m. Wednesday. He had been in a coma since Sunday morning.

Among the first show biz personalities to go to the wake were Belmonte's nieces Sunshine and Geneva

STARS, FANS/ A26

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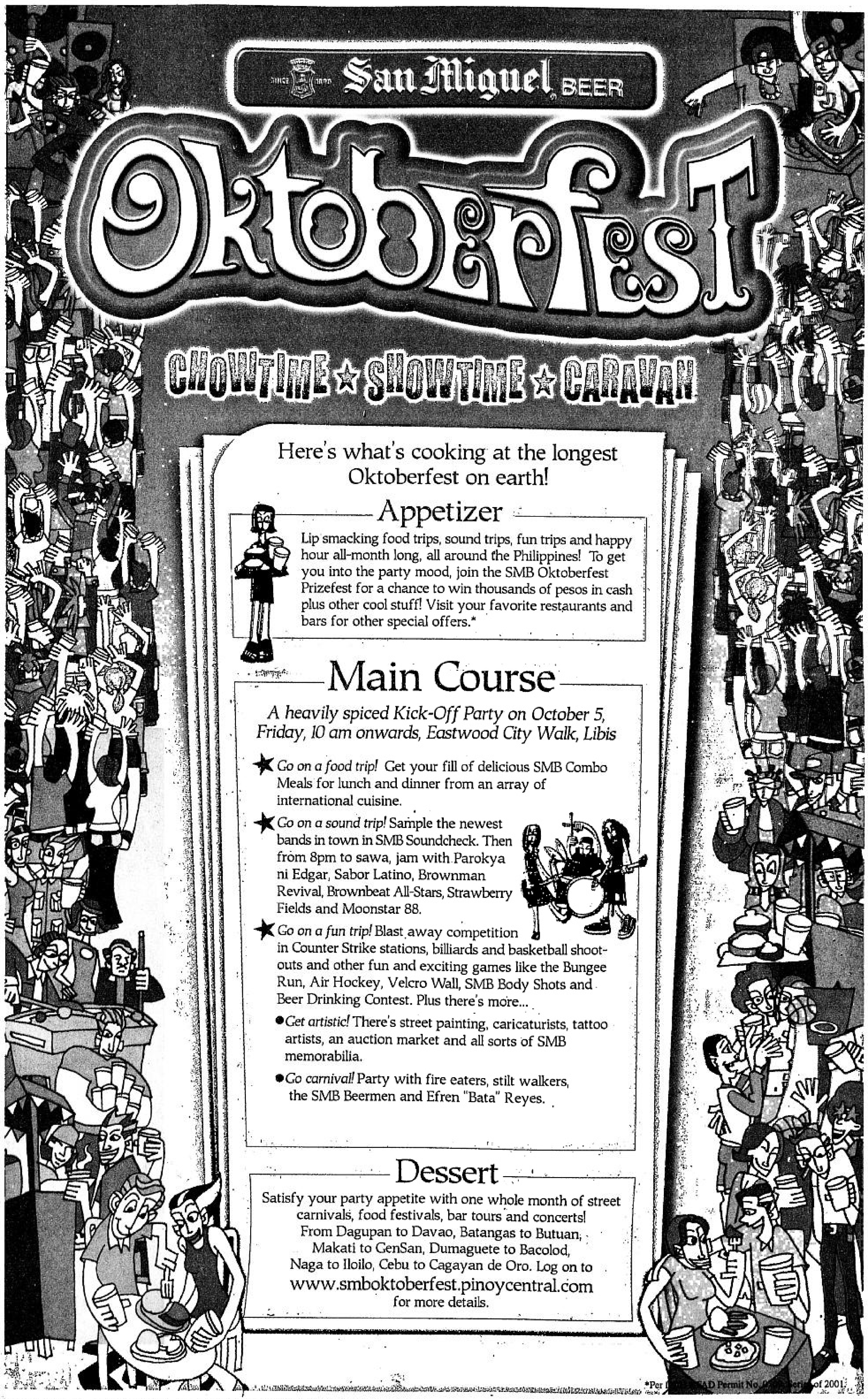

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★ *Go on a fun trip!* Blast away competition in Counter Strike stations, billiards and basketball shootouts and other fun and exciting games like the Bungee Run, Air Hockey, Velcro Wall, SMB Body Shots and Beer Drinking Contest. Plus there's more...

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Spotlight on Mike Arroyo, Go Teng Kok, Butch Tuason

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HE'S big, wide and therefore very visible. But he's not the sort of earthly shape we often care to see.

We have no choice.

As though we haven't had enough of his bulk before, during and after the Southeast Asian Games, the First Gentleman is here again.

He sends us to sleep, lording it over in the evening television news.

Then, before we could sip the breakfast coffee, Gentleman Mike is there again on the front pages, promising innocence with his patented, forlorn stare.

If this is the visibility game he's competing in, then the President's husband is way, way ahead of the pack.

Mike Arroyo could be guilty or not of the new charge brought up by another very visible guy, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Truth is, with all the hassles the public has been exposed to of late, not to mention the committee of overdressed, English-speaking comedians in the Senate hearings, we definitely need Arroyo and Lacson like we all deserve a full-scale flu epidemic.

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Can't they, for once, send in real-life heroes, someone sweeter, honest and true, to help lessen the day-to-day woes?

OK. Go Teng Kok did make the sports community glad and thankful with the prodigious output of his athletes in the Kuala Lumpur Games last month.

The outspoken head of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, in fact, called up to say thank you for what he thought was a glowing account of himself in a post-SEA Games column here.

What could he do in return, he asked.

Nothing, just keep up the good work, Mr. Go was told.

Go was indeed the most successful sports association head to return from Kuala Lumpur.

And nobody was supposed to argue with success?

Sorry, but there are also some people who tend to think that Go is no genuine hero. They even allege that Go has a well-funded hold on sports media.

For example, listen to Enrique E. Angeles who gave his address as 75 Melchor St., Varsity Hills, Loyola Heights, Quezon City:

"Go Teng Kok received media raves—big photos, laudatory headlines—in several leading papers because of his so-called success in the SEA Games. He must indeed be very friendly, accommodating and generous to be getting such wholesome publicity."

***

Then comes the big punch.

"Just recently, this man was again involved with convicted drug queen Yu Yuk Lai that caused an associate justice of the Court of Appeals to be sacked by the Supreme Court. GTK, as media lovingly refer to him, was trying to interfere with an investigation process involving Yu Yuk Lai."

Not content, reader Enriquez adds: "Before he got involved with athletics, Go was already a sleazy character with shadowy connections and associations….What does he get out of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association? A deodorizer? A cosmetic? That may be all right if he had already mended his ways. But the incident with Yu Yuk Lai showed he's still associated with shady people. And to think that he's got his hands on basketball, too, through Graham Lim, Carl Ching Minky, Tiny Literal, Jaime Dichavez."

Due to space constraints, and for the sake of decency, we would cut short the diatribe.

But may I also request Go Teng Kok to ring up this accuser, who gave his number as 426-0760?

It would be better if they talk to each other. It's just hard to swallow this reader's claim that Go Teng Kok has "bought" several sports editors and writers.

They should both help clear the air. The way Mike Arroyo could hopefully squeeze past the latest charge that's been hurled in his predictable direction.

***

Now, for a final note, this time from Perry Mequi, a former head of the Philippine Sports Commission, who said we should continue informing the public on the true picture of leadership in the PSC.

Mequi said he's both glad and gratified that there are those who don't write self-serving items in the sports pages about members of the PSC hierarchy.

Mequi explained: "*Kami na nakakaalam sa katotohanan* feel embarrassed about the press releases coming from the country's top sports agencies."

Mequi added that the revelation about the construction of a "multi-million-peso sports facility in Clark (Diosdado Macapagal) that is causing an over-stimulation of the salivary glands of some members of the PSC leadership" has inspired him to compose a rhyme which he hopes to display in the form of a poster at the appropriate time.

It reads: "*Sabi ni* PGMA/ Priority *ang* sports policy/ *Sabi ni* Butchie *ng* PSC/ *Ang* priority/ *Ay* inventory/ *Ng* sports facility.

Now, because the PSC chair had gone out of his way to make Mike Arroyo win the visibility game in Kuala Lumpur—the First Gentleman was the main guy in practically all the big medal rites for RP athletes—Mequi suspects that Butch Tuason would similarly get solid assistance from his first cousin in the projected sports facility inventory.

Mequi, reminding us that Mike Arroyo wasted no time and announced Tuason's retention as PSC head while still in Kuala Lumpur, said this is self-explanatory.

Mr. Mequi definitely is not the only one who's unhappy about this dollar-rich cousin-to-cousin team-up in the RP sports hierarchy.

Manila Water, too, will raise rates

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System will also grant tariff adjustments to Manila Water Company Inc., just as it did to the Lopez-owned Maynilad.

For consumers, this would mean paying a higher price for water.

"We have to be fair," said MWSS administrator Jose F. Mabanta. "We have to treat everybody equally."

The contract amendments in Manila Water's concession agreement would be similar to those of Maynilad's, Mabanta said. Another MWSS official said the changes would be implemented not later than November.

In its recent basic water adjustment petition, Manila Water asked for a rate increase of P1.06 per cubic meter so it could recover its losses from the peso devaluation.

The MWSS official noted that the contract amendment for Maynilad has set a precedent. Like Maynilad, Manila Water also demanded for a foreign exchange recovery mechanism on water tariffs.

"We expect equal treatment," said Manila Water president Antonio T. Aquino. "We have been adhering to the rules, like paying our concession fees, so certain rules should be uniformly applied to us."

But Aquino said he is still not sure how much increase this would mean in monthly water charges, noting that "it would certainly be lower" than Maynilad's.

Holdup men shoot 2

JEEPNEY passengers Geraldine Esteller and Manuel Concaida were shot and seriously wounded when the woman refused to yield her valuables to four holdup men in Quiapo, Manila early Tuesday evening.

Esteller, 21, an employee of Negros Navigation and resident of Malabon City, was shot in the nape. The bullet went out through her nose and hit postal employee Concaida, 27, of Valuenzuela City, in the chest.

Supt. Danilo Abarsoza, Western Police District Station 3 commander, said the Navotas-bound jeepney was held up around 7 p.m. as it was emerging from the Quezon Boulevard-CM Recto Avenue underpass.

The holdup men, armed with handguns and daggers, took about P10,000 in cash and valuables from the passengers, shot Esteller when she resisted, and then ran toward the Central Market.

5 slain in botched . . .

(From page A25)

The man who was killed in Pasay City was identified as Abolkheir Calandeda, 25, said lawyer Lolito Utitco, NBI deputy director and officer in charge.

Arrested were Pakalma Raskal, Minsuari Macarambong and brothers Jamal and Ali Dicampong.

Guzman and Daniel were reported to be NBI informers while Bantuas was one of the suspected drug pushers and owned the house where the botched drug deal took place, Tor said.

In his report, NBI narcotics division chief Ruel Lasala said the agents originally set out to trap Jun and Tata Gabby, said to be the leaders of a drug syndicate based in Zapote, Las Pi□as City.

On Oct. 1, Col-coli and the informers met members of the syndicate to negotiate the purchase of a kilo of shabu for P600,000. Present in the meeting were Tata Gabby, Alvin Bantuas and a certain Lomu. They agreed to hold the exchange in Bantuas' house on Baker Street in Fairmont Subdivision, North Fairview Wednesday night.

Col-coli and the two informants rode a cab to Bantuas' house about 8 p.m., while another agent, Geovel Aperio, hid in the trunk of the car to serve as Col-coli's backup.

Other narcotics agents under executive officer Regner Pe□eza posted themselves outside the subdivision.

Around 9 p.m., Aperio frantically radioed Pe□eza's team, saying a shootout was going on and that he was trapped in the trunk.

When the agents arrived in Fairmont, they saw Col-coli riddled with bullets in the driver's seat of the taxi. Bantuas, who was shot in the neck, was slumped beside him.

Domingo and De Guzman were also found dead, each with a bullet in the head, in a bedroom on the second floor of Bantuas' house.

The money Col-coli was carrying and the drug cache were nowhere to be found.

NBI agents were able to arrest Calandeda in North Fairview shortly after the shooting.

Rommel Vallejo of the NBI Special Task Force of the NBI shot Calandeda at close range when the latter allegedly tried to grab the gun of another NBI agent, Charles Velloso, on Cuneta Avenue while they were on board a Toyota pickup (PLM 149).

Stars, fans . . .

(From page A25)

Cruz, Bibeth Orteza, Bernard Bonin, Nida Blanca and talk show host Lolit Solis.

"Ricky's death is very saddening indeed, not only because he was such a good person," said Blanca, who came in a black shirt and black pants yesterday afternoon. "This is a big loss to the industry."

Danny Cruz, Belmonte's younger brother and Sunshine's father, said he had barely slept since his brother was brought to the hospital Sunday before dawn.

He recalled how "Jessie" would jam with the Cruz family musical group, the 747 Band, in its performances at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

"Jessie had been our manager since the group was formed in 1974," he said. "He was very good in his job, even going abroad just to buy the latest in musical instruments.

A Mass will be said in the Loyola chapel where Belmonte's remains lie at 8 a.m. Sunday. Burial will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park in Para□aque City.

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Joemari Chan still a top crowd-drawer

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

HE MAY not have the screaming fans of **Martin Nievera** or **Gary Valenciano**. But at 53, **Jose Mari Chan** can still give top concert artists a run for their money.

When Joemari packed the ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza for a one-night concert last Sept. 14, the multi-awarded singer-songwriter proved that he is still a crowd-drawer even in big venues.

These days, it's rare that you see Joemari onstage. If I remember right, his last concert was the one at The Fort, staged in December last year. And while Valentine's Day used to see him in dinner-concerts in posh hotels, Joemari was at the Masonic Theater in San Francisco last Feb. 14.

So when it was announced that Joemari would have a one-night concert at Westin, his fans took it as an opportunity to see him perform live again.

"The Best of Jose Mari Chan 2" was actually a repeat of the highly successful show which Joemari did also at the Westin two years ago.

The show's repertoire last Sept. 14 was divided into two parts. For the first, Joemari sang the songs he grew up with, starting from the time he was a student in Iloilo.

He rendered "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" (the theme from the movie of the same title starring **William Holden** and **Jennifer Jones**), in a school program when he was only 8.

Then Joemari carried out popular tunes by British entertainer **Cliff Richard**—"When the Girl in Your Arms" and "Constantly"—one of his music idols. Wasn't Joemari called the Cliff Richard of the Philippines even during his early years in the business?

.The second part had the audience swooning to Joemari when he sang his hits. Even if some people describe his songs as mushy, Joemari's has charted timeless hits, the songs we grew up with.

So for the latter half, most of his fans in the audience were singing with him in "Can We Just Stop and Talk Awhile," "Deep in My Heart," "Afterglow," "Refrain," "Tell Me Your Name," "Love to Last a Lifetime," "Beautiful Girl" and "Refrain."

The audience did not scream or shriek as Joemari rendered one hit after another. But they were truly appreciative of the songs he performed as they rewarded him with a loud applause for every number.

Joemari was candid enough to say that he's been in the music business for more than three decades now. He is a master in creating beautiful melodies which he turns into hits. One of his greatest accomplishments, aside from the natural wonder of his voice, is his being a musician.

With his guests, Joemari further regaled his audience. He did a duet with **Janet Basco** in "Like Night and Day."

Gino Padilla did a spot in "Hahanapin Ko," an **Anthony Castelo** original.

The vocal sextet The Company, meanwhile, was honored to have shared the stage with Joemari, whose original hit, "Afraid for Love To Fade," they revived in their album.

Multi-million-peso launch

A COOL P6 million was what Globe Telecom spent for the one-hour TV launch of it latest service, Touch Mobile, two Sundays ago on ABS-CBN's "Asap."

The telecom company bought airtime from ABS-CBN, which conceptualized a one-hour presentation participated in by "Asap" hosts and other network talents.

The special launch had a remote airing from the Folk Arts Theater, which Globe also paid for ABS-CBN that Sunday.

We were among those invited to the Touch Mobile launch on "Asap." Globe hosted an early lunch for the entertainment writers at the nearby Gloria Maris Restaurant.

However, when it was time to join the crowd at the Folk Arts Theater, it took us forever to enter the venue since our access passes were being held by Globe marketing representative **Pam Molinyawe,** who was nowhere to be found.

We were stalled for nearly 30 minutes outside the FAT even if another Globe representative, **Allan Cuevas,** was with our group. Worse, when we were inside the venue, an usher told us that our seats in front of the stage were already given to others.

We don't know if it was still Pam's job to secure the choice seats for us, but the apparent miscommunication with the other Globe representative resulted in the mix-up.

It was a good thing ABS-CBN programming executive **Deo Endrinal** made an effort to give us back our seats by calling on his production staff.

Save for that mess, the Touch Mobile launch was truly spectacular. Special production numbers, songs and spiels were presented during the one-hour show. And the stars—from **Pops Fernandez** to **Marissa Sanchez**—all donned Touch Mobile's colors of orange and blue.

TV host **Boy Abunda** has been tapped as the image model of Globe for Touch Mobile.

Touch Mobile is the latest cellphone service from IslaCom in cooperation with Globe, backed up by Ayala Corporation, Singapore Telecom International and Deutsche Telekom.

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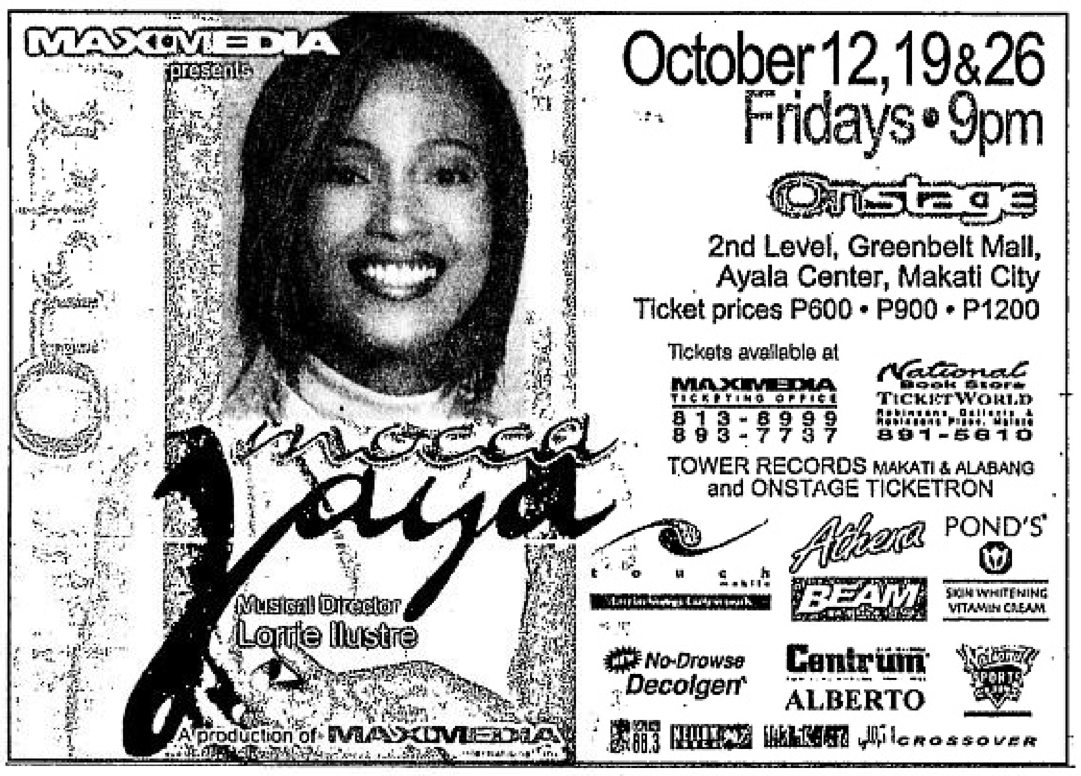
TOUCH Mobile hosts on "Asap": (from left) RJ Rosales, Pops Fernandez and Ariel Rivera.

ROCK showdown: Rosanna Roces and Sampaguita. PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO



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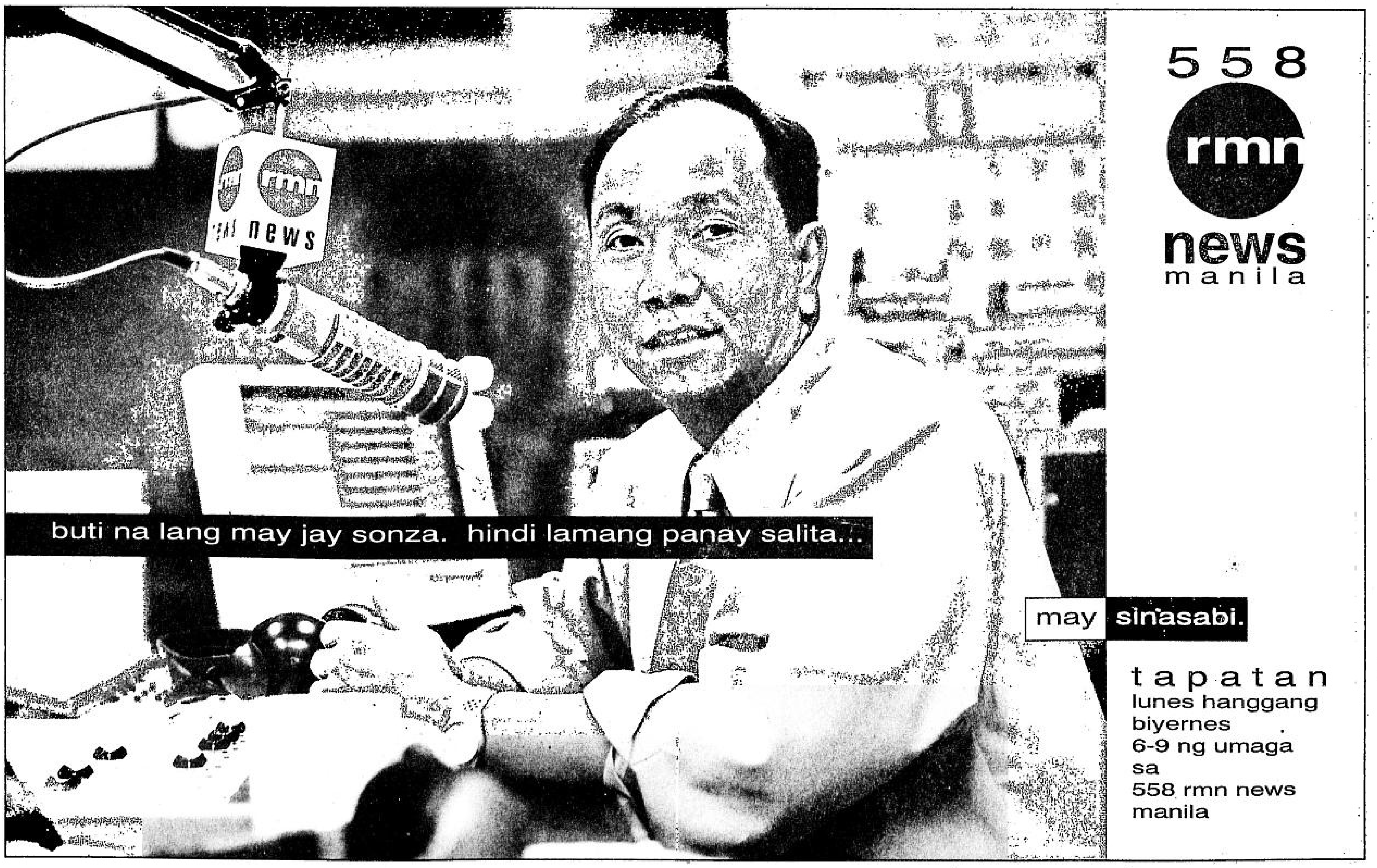

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1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SISID

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SISID

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS BASAGAN NG MUKHA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2	SISID
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SISID

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	MR. NICE GUY
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2	SISID
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MR. NICE GUY

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	SISID

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	SISID
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SISID
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2 (DTS)	SISID
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	HEART BREAKER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SISID
2 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKER
3 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCREAM 2
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
4 (DTS)	MR. NICE GUY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	HEART BREAKER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SISID
3	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	HEART BREAKER
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	SCREAM 2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BASAGAN NG MUKHA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	LA VIDA ROSA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	SCARY MOVIE 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	HEART BREAKER
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4 (DTS ES)	FAST & FURIOUS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3	HEART BREAKER
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	SISID
6	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	LA VIDA ROSA
9	ENEMY AT THE GATES
10	PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA 538-7609 TO 12

1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	SISID
4	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
5	HEART BREAKER
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	SISID
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	ST. FRANCIS VILLE

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	SISID

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	CROCODILE 2
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	MANO MANO 2

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METRO EAST
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SISID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MR. NICE GUY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAILS OF EROTICA / NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
ODEON	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
ODEON-2	MR. NICE GUY
ROBEN	SISID
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SISID
REMAR	SISID
REMAR-2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-4	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-5	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

House music nights

EXPERIENCE "Rush" on Oct. 6, Saturday at Where Else?, as the premier club launches its hot and happening house music-themed nights.

Already making a name for itself in a short span of time as the place to be on Friday nights with the chill-out themed Oasis event, Where Else? is giving partygoers another reason to visit the club on weekends.

Where Else? transforms into a scene out of the future. Expect intense colors, mesmerizing lights and a futuristic/space age set-up, with the hard pumping sounds of DJ Mon Maramba, David Jacob and other special guests to complete the picture.

Cocktails start 10 p.m.

Night spot visits

MILD Seven combines fun games and good looks to put together a winning team.

The Mild Seven Team of models has been doing the rounds of the city's hottest spots to bring excitement plus the smooth, clear taste of Mild Seven in lights and charcoal filter to enthusiastic bar habitues.

Tonight, Oct. 5, get set to play "Truth or Dare," "Any of Seven" and "Couples Cigarette Puffing Contests" with the Mild Seven models in Makati's hot nightspots such as Cable Car Pasay Road, Padi's Point (Pasay Road, Mile Long, Jupiter), Café Overdrive, Stixx Bar, Wher Else? and Tequila's Joe's.

Tomorrow night, the team will lead fun-filled activities at Cable Car, San Mig, Fat Tuesday, Tequila Joe's, Ran Kan Kan, Padi's Point, Studio One and Fridays in Alabang.

Wolfgang in Malate

WOLFGANG performs in "Black Mantra Live" Saturday, Oct. 6, at 9 p.m. at the Nth Degree on Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila.

"Black Mantra" is also the title of the group's sixth studio album, following the award-winning "Serve in Silence."

Vocalist Basti Artadi says "Black Mantra" is now his favorite album "because the songs on this one are unbelievable, some of the best stuff we've come up with so far."

"Black Mantra Live" is organized by Big J Event Production and sponsored by NCADS Digital Graphics & Audio Logic.

'Vagina Monologues' in English

THE ENGLISH version of New Voice Company's hit play "The Vagina Monologues" will have a special weekend run at the Music Museum on Oct. 5 and 6 at 9 p.m.

The play stars Tami Monsod, veteran of the original Manila staging of Eve Ensler's celebrated feminist play, Lara Fabregas and Lynn Sherman. Director is Andrew Vergara.

For information on show-buying, sponsorships, tickets and other New Voice activities, call 896-5497, -6695 or 899-0630.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A hairy story

THIS is dedicated to the women out there. Just like make-up, hair is another unique obsession for us.

Gary, who cuts and colors my hair in the Katipunan branch of **Pin Antonio**'s Salon de Manila, asked me to write about what kind of hair treatments I regularly use since so many of his clients marvel at my constant hair color changes and my hair's resilience despite the abuse. In the past five months I've gone from red to royal blue to blue-black and now toffee-caramel brown.

On days that I'm on-cam, my hair is blow-dried and curled using a 3/4-inch barrel curling iron. Currently I'm favoring a semi-corkscrew, vertical curled style, which I'll admit was copied from a combination of **Reese Witherspoon**'s and **Rebecca Romijn-Stamos**'s sexy tousled bobs, both of which are featured in October's In Style.

My immediate previous favorite hairstyle, the back-flipped, pointed cut a la **Meg Ryan**, also required the use of a curling iron.

I shampoo and condition with five different shampoo and conditioner combinations that I rotate. These range from Origins' peach-scented The Last Straw conditioning shampoo, followed by Knot Free finishing rinse, to TIGI's Thickening Shampoo and Thickening Paste Conditioner. I sometimes use Pantene shampoo and conditioner for color treated hair, at times L'Oreal Vitamin Color Shampoo and Crème treatment, as well as Head and Shoulders Menthol followed by St. Ives Hair Repair intensive conditioner.

The newest duo I'm trying is Volume Systems' shampoo and conditioner.

An important tip from Gary for

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

people who shampoo every day: To protect your hair color, dilute the shampoo, not in the bottle itself but in a bathroom cup. Mix 1 part shampoo with 4 parts water.

After towel-drying my hair and before it is styled, I spritz on any of the following as added protection—Infusium 23 Leave-In Treatment, KMS Daily Repair Leave-In Treatment or TIGI Protein Protective Spray.

There are days when my hair seems very brittle and I need even more conditioning so I resort to either Sebastian's Potion #9 or Kerastase Ciment Anti-Usure. These are highly concentrated and a little really helps moisturize nearly fried hair.

For the curl to hold, we use TIGI's Up Tight sprayed on lightly before using the curling iron. As a finishing touch, to create a tousled yet non-greasy look, I like KMS Hair Play molding paste or DAX Wave and Groom hair dress.

I'm currently trying to grow my hair again, hopefully to reach about two inches below my shoulders since I just saw **Charlize Theron** in October's Elle magazine and I love her soft, below-the-shoulder curls.

All the hair care products I mentioned are readily available in your favorite salons, while curling irons for personal use by Revlon and Vidal Sassoon are available in department stores like Rustan's and SM.

Working out

I'M writing about it just to insure that I'll stick to the program. With my cousin **Rina** and my friend **Keren**, I'm enrolling in a gym.

We're going to aim for four times a week at the gym, coupled with tennis lessons. Tennis is the only sport I managed to learn and enjoy, so I figured my most promising chance to stick to a sport is if I pick up my racket again. There's no excuse anymore because my new taping schedule is set and organized in such a way that I no longer have lack of time as an excuse for not being physically fit.

Why work out now? Because I want to be healthy, trim, attractive and slim for my thirtysomething years.

They say that when you're embarking on a new exercise program, the simple way to success is to set an attainable, not impossible, set of goals. I need more stamina and a healthier respiratory system, I desire to be able to show off firm, sculpted arms, I aim to have noticeably less flab on my abdomen, hips and thigh, and I want to drop 10 pounds and keep them permanently off.

Some friends of mine who regularly work out have taken Xenadrine and they claim that it really helped them drop the weight quickly. It's supposed to be America's #1 diet formula, and the print ads for Xenadrine say that it can really help enhance fat loss when used together with a diet and exercise program.

I'll give it a try, but I'm a bit hesitant since a friend who took it said it gave him bad mood swings. Another friend who took it said it made her jittery.

I'll give you personal feedback in a few weeks.

Stars who care and share

STARS are notorious for thinking only of themselves, but some of them really don't deserve the bad rap. In fact, a few of them are so generous that they make the rest of us look like misers.

Right after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center's twin towers, **Julia Roberts** gave $1M to the Sept. 11. Telethon Fund and another $1M to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. She also took part in the fund-raising telethon.

For her part, **Sandra Bullock** also donated $1M to the Red Cross' Liberty Disaster Relief Fund. Incidentally, Bullock once played a Red Cross Nurse in the World War I film, "In Love and War."

More: **Angelina Jolie** recently gave $1M to the United Nations Refugee Agency to help Afghan refugees. Julie is a goodwill ambassador for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and went to Pakistan on August to observe how the 3.5 million Afghan refugees were being treated in camps in that country and in Iran.

Finally, **Jerry Seinfeld**, **Bill Cosby** and other entertainers are headlining the "Stand Up for New York" benefit show for the Fireman's and Policeman's Widow and Children's Fund and the Twin Towers fund on Oct. 8.

In these and other ways, entertainment luminaries are showing that they're more than just photogenic denizens of show biz's vapid fantasyland, and are fully prepared to help and make a difference in the real, troubled, hurting world. May other stars, both here and abroad, follow their selfless and caring example.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Films on HBO

SOME entertaining movies are showing on HBO this month: Sunday, Oct. 7 at 8 p.m., "The Fugitive" with **Harrison Ford**. Sunday, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m., "The Mummy" with **Brendan Fraser**.

Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 9 p.m., "Analyze. This" with **Robert De Niro** and **Billy Crystal**.

Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 9 p.m., "A Civil Action" with **John Travolta** and **James Gandolfini**.

Friday, Oct. 26, at 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow" with **Johnny Depp** and **Christina Ricci**.

Saturday, Oct. 27, at 9 p.m., "Band of Brothers" with **David Schwimmer** and **Damien Lewis**.

Sunday, Oct. 28, at 8 p.m., "The GodFather, Part 3" with **Al Pacino**, **Diane Keaton** and **Andy Garcia**.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 9:45 p.m., "Band of Brothers 03."

More on the "Band of Brothers" telecasts: Executive-produced by **Tom Hanks** and **Steven Spielberg**, "Band of Brothers" tells the story of Easy Company, 506th Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, US Army.

Through their rigorous training in Georgia in 1942, it recounts the achievements of the elite rifle company, which parachuted into France on D-Day, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and captured Hitler's Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgaden.

Meanwhile, "Band of Brothers 03: Carentan" focuses on a particular series of battles. Two days after D-Day, Easy Co. is sent to take the town of Carentan, engaging in a successful campaign resulting in several casualties.

After 36 days in Normandy and several fierce battles, Easy Co. returns to England, but their celebrations are short-lived, as news comes that they're moving out again.

Quick cuts

US-BASED yoga teacher **Lucia Misa** will conduct a workshop on self-healing yoga on Monday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (CHACRA) at 59 C. Salvador st., Loyola Heights, QC (434-5381).

Misa calls her yoga work "Talikwas," or unfolding from within. It awakens the body's natural healing powers through relaxed breathing, dynamic movement, sounding and visualization.

Meanwhile, **Jolina Magdangal** is the latest celebrity to plug Zest-O Juice Drinks, singing the commercial jingle composed by **Jimmy Antiporda**. The new Zest-O commercial is directed by **Henry Frejas**, with no less than Cannes filmfest winner **Raymond Red** in charge of the cinematography.

In the new spot, a young boy has a crush on his teacher and gives her a Zest-O drink, but his heart gets broken when he sees her with a male teacher. History repeats itself when he's an adult and his own son asks for an extra Zesto-O Juice Drink in his *baon*.

BENOIT AT THE CCP

International jazz artist David Benoit (third from left) arrived in Manila Tuesday night for his one-night-only "Jazz at the CCP" concert with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra tomorrow night at the CCP Main Theater. Featured vocalist is Side A's Joey Generoso. With Benoit are (from left) CCP marketing division OIC Johnny Villagomez, Admix Inc. president and CEO Lito Pagayon, PPO principal conductor and musical director Ruggero Barbieri, and PPO consultant Zenas Lozada. "Jazz at the CCP" is presented by the CCP, 105.1 Crossover, Rado of Switzerland and Rustan's.

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Andie MACDOWELL · Janna ELFMAN
Josh HARTNETT · Natassja KINSKI
Charlton HESTON · Goldie HAWN

Porter Stoddard (Warren Beatty) is a well-known New York architect who is at a crossroads; a nexus where twists and turns lead to a myriad of misstops - some with his wife Ellie (Diane Keaton), others with long time friends Mona (Goldie Hawn) and her husband Griffin (Gary Shandling). Deciding which direction to take often leads to unexpected encounters with hilarious consequences in this comedy about life, love, friendship and the sometimes blistering nature of marital bliss.

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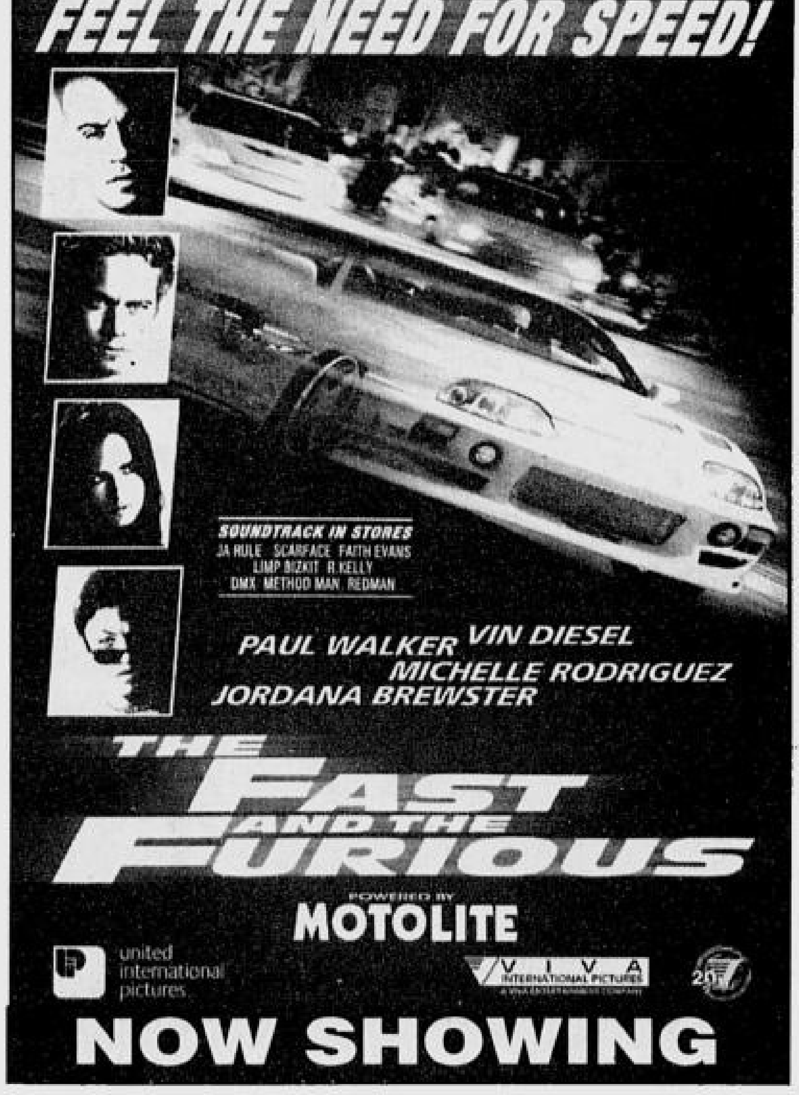
"The car, truck & motorcycle stunts in the movie were performed by professional stunt drivers using proper safety gear in the presence of emergency ambulance & medical equipment. They should not be emulated nor done in the streets. Be SMART, DRIVE SAFE and STAY LEGAL."



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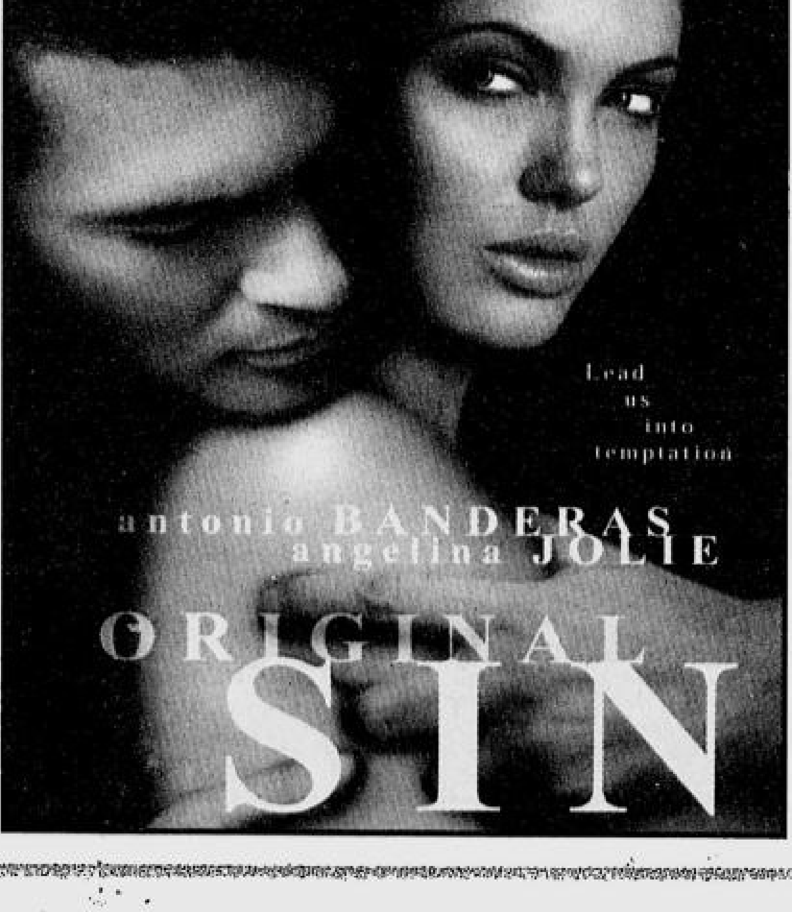

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HEARTBREAKERS - P 13 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20	ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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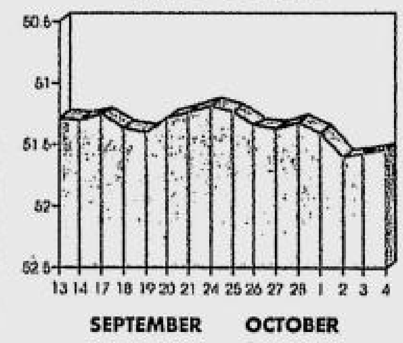

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

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August exports tumble

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S exports fell by more than 25 percent in August—the biggest monthly drop in two decades—to $2.62 billion from $3.53 billion a year earlier.

The National Statistics Office said in a statement yesterday that merchandise exports in August fell 25.8 percent, with revenue from electronics, which made up more than half the exports for August, slumping 40.1 percent.

In the eight months to August, exports amounted to $21.2 billion, down 13 percent from a year earlier.

In July, exports were down 19.4 percent year-on-year.

Analysts said the worst was yet to come as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States would take a bigger toll on exports, the key driver of the Philippine economy.

"Its increasingly likely that the Philippines may end the year with the worst ever annual decline in exports," said Song Seng Wun, senior economist with G.K. Goh Stockbrokers Pte. Ltd.

Song said, "based on reliable trade data, the August export drop is the biggest monthly percentage decline since 1980."

Luz Lorenzo, research head at ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., said with the exports slide, the Philippines had to rely on domestic factors, like agriculture production and domestic consumption, to drive economic growth.

"We really must concentrate on the domestic economy. We have to stimulate domestic consumption and investment," Lorenzo said.

Despite the gloomy external environment, the government is maintaining its growth target of at least 3.3 percent in 2001 from about 4 percent last year.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said: "We already factored in the decline in exports" in the government's 3.3-percent growth rate forcast.

Nomura International economist Pu Yong Hao said the export downtrend could extend to the first quarter of next year as the Sept. 11 attacks may delay the recovery of the US economy until the second quarter.

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197,400	38,479	26,627	21,270	15,273	12,312
263,200	32,900	22,465	17,952	12,890	10,391
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, October 4, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	50	50	223,400
China Banking Corp.	550	550	550	550	120
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22	23	21.75	23	162,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	194	194	190	191	64,240
Philippine National Bank	49	50	49	50	418,400
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	4,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	15	15	14.75	14.75	1,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1345	1350	1345	1350	3,650
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1005	1020	1005	1020	3,440
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	24.25	25	24.25	25	13,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.25	13,080,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	635	640	630	630	11,720
Philstar.Com Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	425	425	417.5	420	157,230
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	21,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	12,000
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33.5	32.5	33	311,700
Petron Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.18	1.22	3,235,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.26	524,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.34	0.38	540,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	15,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	499,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	229,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.5	147,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.75	25	24.5	25	131,600
RFM Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.08	2.1	357,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	73,800
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52.5	52	52.5	199,500
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.59	0.59	0.55	0.55	60,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	290,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	100,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.64	0.66	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	790,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	35,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	0.99	1.04	20,750,000
DMCI Holdings Inc..	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.17	1,300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	1,400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.75	24	23.75	23.75	13,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	10,000
Ionics Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	53,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	479,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.63	0.55	0.63	12,090,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.23	1,640,000
Music Corp.	0.51	0.53	0.47	0.51	750,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	10,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	190,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	640,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.6	0.6	0.55	0.55	80,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.065	1,700,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.74	0.76	0.74	0.76	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	50,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	1,490,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	6,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	25	23.75	25	635,400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	620	625	600	605	1,050
Jollibee Warrants	11	11	11	11	31,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	8,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	1,000
Far Eastern University	280	280	280	280	30
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	3,457,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	600,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	420,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22	1,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.26	1.16	1.24	9,114,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc..	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	13,375,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,300,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.024	0.03	0.024	0.03	61,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.155	800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	14,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	10,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	200,000

Shares break losing streak

SHARES ended yesterday a six-session losing streak to close with a modest gain on bargain hunting.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 0.5 percent at 1,094.93 after falling 1.4 percent to 1,089.28 on Wednesday, its lowest closing level in nearly 37 months. The index has lost 6.2 percent since Sept. 26.

"Traditionally, the market reaches its bottom at around mid-October, so this could be it," said Eagle Equities' president Joseph Roxas.

Capping the market's rise was the dismal performance of index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which closed down 1.8 percent at P420 on 157,230 shares traded. The company's American Depositary Receipts lost 6.2 percent to $8.18 Wednesday.

"It all comes down to the debt problem of PLDT," said Equitable PCI Bank Inc. fund manager Edison Yap. "PLDT's debt is more highly geared than other listed companies."

Also putting pressure on the stock were the high court ruling handed down early this week that might compel PLDT to pay billions of pesos in back taxes, as well as problems in negotiations to acquire GMA Network, the country's second largest media broadcast group.

AP

MPC to sell stake in Boni

By Doris C. Dumlao

METRO PACIFIC Corp. is considering unloading its entire stake in its flagship Fort Bonifacio Global City project to cut its debts in view of a continuing slump in the property sector.

Persons familiar with the situation said Metro Pacific's parent firm, the Salim group's First Pacific Co. Ltd., had allowed Metro Pacific to sell its 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

Metro Pacific holds the stake through Bonifacio Land Corp., which it owns 69.6 percent.

A consortium led by Metro Pacific won the right to develop a 240-hectare area inside the former Fort Bonifacio military base during a landmark auction in 1995.

The area to be developed was later reduced to 150 hectares when an undelivered, squatter-infested portion of the property was returned to the government and Metro Pacific's remaining debts were written off.

One source said Metro Pacific was now scouting for a buyer of its stake in the Fort Bonifacio project and had conceded it might have to sell at a loss.

Fort Bonifacio had cost Metro Pacific some P33,000 per square meter. In Metro Pacific's last attempt to unload a part of its stake in the project, the highest bid tendered was only P11,800 per square meter.

Sky, Home expect partner by yearend

By Abigail L. Ho

CABLE companies Sky Vision Corp. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Corp. are set to formalize its consolidation by year's end with a business plan that would pave the way for the entry of a strategic partner.

SkyCable managing director Carlos Tria Jr. told reporters yesterday that the single holding company, Beyond Cable, would be operating as a consolidated company by January next year.

"We're in the process of closing the (consolidation) by registering the company, paying taxes and taking care of other requirements needed to formalize the deal," Tria said.

By the first or second quarter of next year, a third party could already come in as a strategic partner. Right now, Tria said they were still in the "early process" and there were still no formal discussions with any entity.

RFM rating raised

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Ratings Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, has upgraded its rating of RFM Corp.'s P500-million long-term commercial papers.

From "PRS Caa," which indicates a high possibility of default, the rating was raised to "PRS Baa." The new rating denotes that RFM's long-term commercial papers were neither highly protected nor poorly secured, and that interest payments and principal security appeared adequate for now, but certain protective elements might be lacking or might be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time.

In assigning the new rating, Philratings said it took note of developments regarding the settlement of the company's convertible bonds.

To date, $37.7 million have already been put in escrow for the benefit of bondholders, effectively bringing down RFM's outstanding obligation to $18.4 million.

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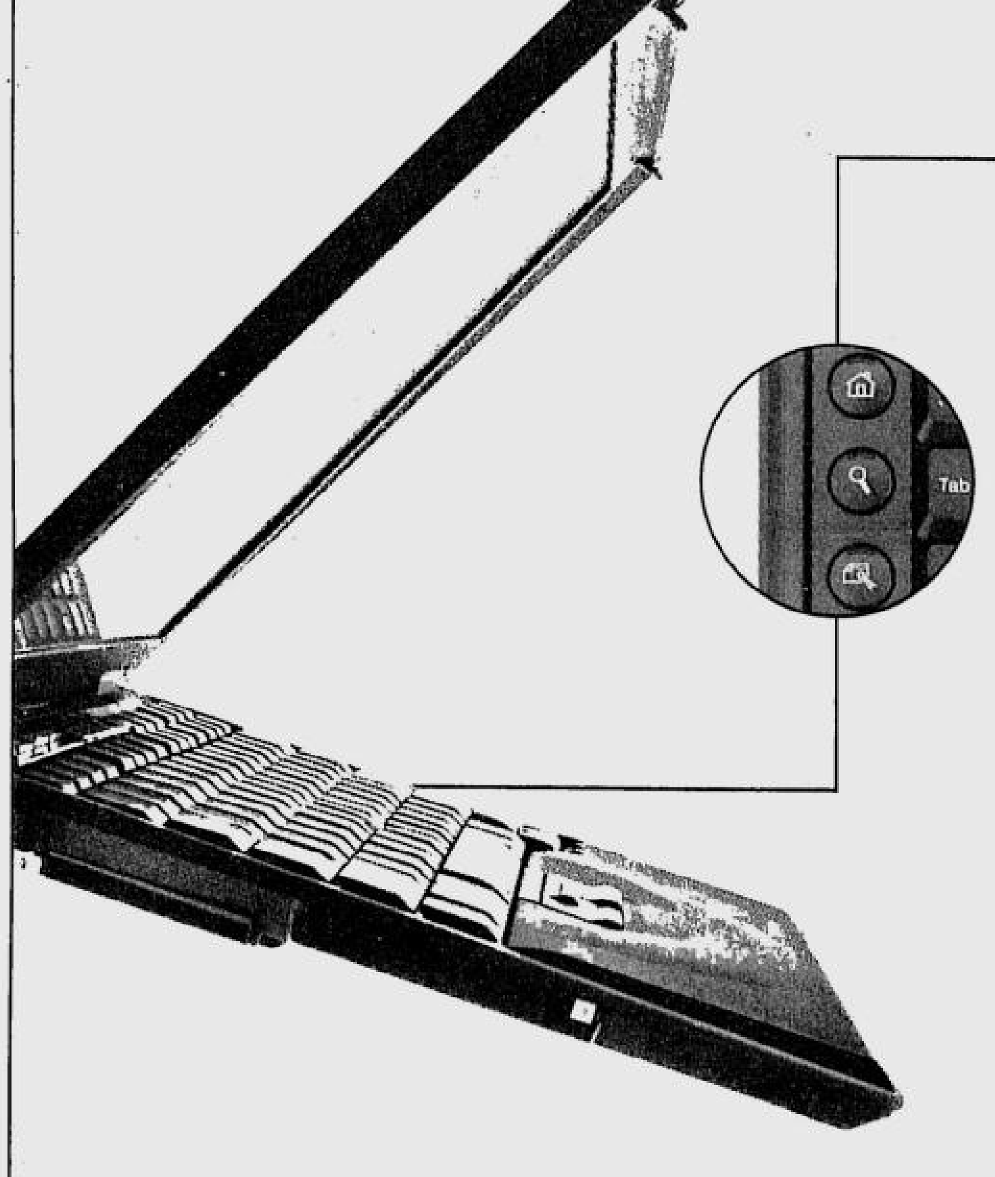

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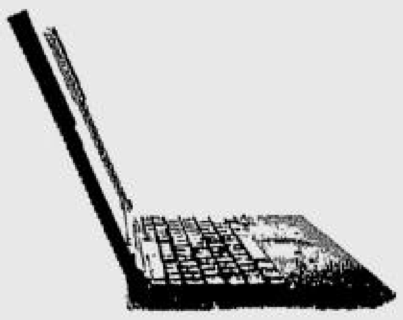

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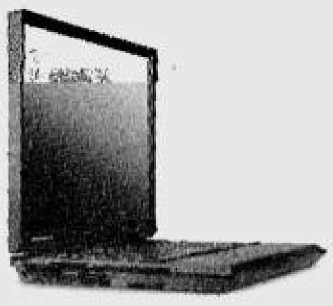

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Terminal's tangled ties

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

THE LEADERSHIP of the Makati Business Club appears split on the Piatco/Terminal 3 issue, caused no doubt by the business ties that conferred good standing and membership to the exclusive club to these apostles of good governance.

Despite the misgivings of MBC senior statesman Washington Sycip, MBC chair Ricardo Romulo and his executive director, Guillermo Luz, paid a visit to the airport construction site last weekend.

Sycip, as some of you may know, is the chair of Macro Asia, the Lucio Tan company that is providing airline meals and other airport ground services. Macro Asia, in turn, is part of the alliance of airport service contractors opposed to the "monopoly" terms of the Piatco contract.

On the other hand, Romulo, when not wearing the MBC hat, is also managing partner of the Romulo Mabanta law firm, one of the counsels of Piatco. No less than Romulo Mabanta's name partner, former PSE president Eduardo delos Angeles, is defending Piatco against the civil/plunder complaints filed by the opposition.

A key private counsel during the impeachment trial, Delos Angeles will this time go against a colleague and key witness during the impeachment trial, Perfecto Yasay Jr. The ex-SEC chair has resurrected as spokesperson/counsel for the anti-Piatco alliance, opposite Delos Angeles.

Other than Yasay, the main counsel for the anti-Piatco's alliance denouncing alleged irregular Erap insertions in the Piatco contract is Accra, the home base of ex-Erap Executive Secretary now Sen. Edgardo Angara.

The 180-degree switch has also been executed quite effortlessly by Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, who, in a span of three years, has changed roles from, first, congressional investigator, then silent partner, and then, as DOTC chief, regulator of the Terminal 3 project.

But, then again, if a taipan like Lucio Tan can, after Edsa II, denounce as corrupt a key infrastructure project of his favorite president, who are we mortals not to do the same?

To quote Erap classmate Reli German, it's *S-O-S* (Save Our Skin) time.

People in the news

- ANGARA'S counsel, Demaree "Mario" Raval, whom Sen. Joker Arroyo accused as the real author of the Ping Lacson PCSO speech, is no stranger to controversies.

Raval, a UP Law graduate and a member of Couples for Christ, is the same agriculture undersecretary whom Angara suspended over some financial misdeeds when the senator was then Erap agriculture secretary.

- JEFFERSON "Jeff" Cheng, the Piatco president, is a 1986 architecture graduate of UP Diliman. His father, Cheng Yong, the Piatco chair, is a chemical engineer who established the Calamba-based TNC Chemicals, which produces nitrocellulose, a base chemical for the ink industry.

Jeff went to work right after college for Pair Cargo, the cargo forwarding company established in 1986 by his father and partner Henry Go.

In 1993, Pair Cargo formed a joint venture company with Lufthansa, PAGS Terminal, that competed with Philippine Airlines and Miascor for the provision of ground handling services in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Heard through the grapevine

THE OWNERSHIP of two tabloids, not only one as reported Wednesday, may change hands shortly.

The present owners want to concentrate on "quality" titles; the putative buyer, on the other hand, wants to strengthen its "sensational" market share.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

August exports tumble

(From page B1)

However, he said the domestic economy remained resilient due to relatively strong agriculture and services sectors.

Revenues from garments, which ranked a far second with a share of 8 percent, also slowed down by 14 percent.

Accounting for 88.6 percent of total revenue, export of manufactured goods fell by 27.7 percent. Income from agro-based products, which accounted for 5.3 percent, also dropped by 4.6 percent.

The United States and Japan were still the country's top export destinations during the period, accounting for 27.7 percent and 13.9 percent.

Revenues from the two countries continued to drop at double-digit rates, with exports to the US falling by 32.6 percent and Japan, by 21.1 percent.

With a report from AFP

BSP lowers interest rates

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas decided to cut its key interest rates by 25 basis points, joining other monetary authorities that have slashed rates to avert a global recession after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The central bank's policy-making Monetary Board said with the rate cut, effective today, the overnight borrowing rate would be 8.75 percent and the lending rate would be 11 percent.

"The board said that there is some room for monetary easing given that the inflation performance for 2001 is expected to be within target and given that the outlook shows relatively subdued inflationary pressures," the bank said in a statement.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura also cited the favorable outlook on inflation as a reason behind the reduction in overnight borrowing and lending rates.

This developed as interest rates in the United States have now fallen to a 40-year low after the Fed, for the ninth time this year, slashed its rate by half a percentage point to 2.5 percent.

Buenaventura said the BSP has lowered its key policy rates by a cumulative 6.25 percentage points since December.

He said the rate cut would support the country's domestic expansion in the face of a global downturn and the uncertainties from the recent terrorist attacks against the United States.

"This would allow the economy to build upon the better-than-expected growth performance in the second quarter, which was primarily internally generated," he said.

"Moreover, the reduction in interest rates by many central banks—including the 100-basis point cut by the US Fed since Sept. 11—has also provided the BSP with leeway to cut policy rates. Without fueling concern over a shift away from peso-denominated assets in as much as interest rate differentials do not narrow, these factors are seen as positive for the peso, which, in turn, can help keep inflationary pressures in check," he said.

The BSP chief said the central monetary institution would continue to monitor economic developments and the financial markets to ensure that its policies were supportive of growth and inflation objectives.

ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo said that lowering interest rates was the only way the government could help pump prime the economy without aggravating its huge budget deficits.

"A reduction in interest rates will stimulate the domestic economy because it will make the people reluctant to save and will instead be encouraged to spend money," Lorenzo said.

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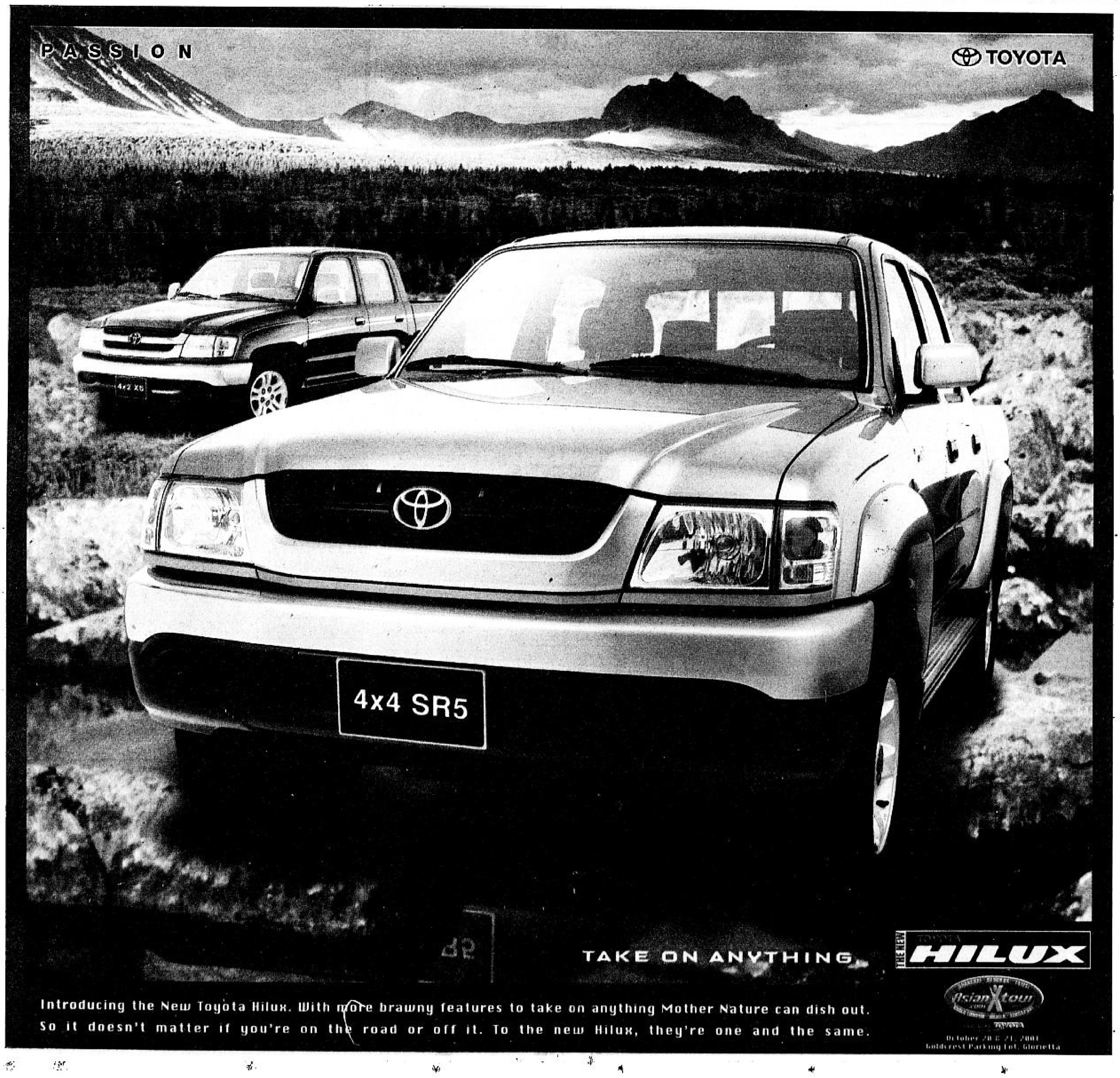

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LOT

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PARAGON 1br FF sale/rent 1car 4121825•09177914366

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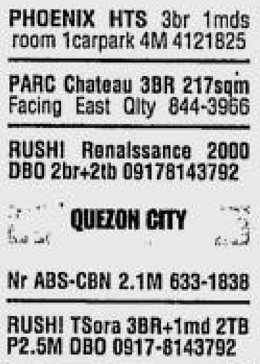

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Independent, self-motivated & resourceful

Possess good analytical ability and able to make quick & sound business decisions.

Must possess a degree and with 10 years working experience, of which at least 5 years in related fields such as foodservice, supermarket or fast foods.

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8, Senoko South Road,
Singapore 758095

Attn: Ms Lucy Ong

E-mail to: lucy.ong@country-foods.com.sg

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR PRE-FABRICATED MATERIALS, BUILDING SYSTEMS, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALIZED AND LOW-COST HOUSING UNITS

The National Housing Authority is in search of pre-fabricated housing materials, building systems, and technology for the construction of socialized and low-cost housing units.

Interested parties shall submit their Letters of Intent to the Project Evaluation Committee (PEC), c/o the Office of the Assistant General Manager, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building not later than **October 10, 2001.**

Copies of the Terms of Reference may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on **October 10-17, 2001** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P200.00. Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on **October 23, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Operation Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities or any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Chairman
Project Evaluation Committee

(PDI – Sept. 29, Oct. 5 & 9, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

15th Corrugated Boards & RSC Box Cost Estimating
Workshop
Tuesday Oct. 9, 2001
Time: 8:00-11:30 A.M. at
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased Carmen F. Cervantes has been extra-judicially settled by her heirs on 21 Sept. 2001, as per Doc. 5534, Page 8, Book CIII, Series of 2001 of Notary Public Marcelino J. Dy of Manila
(PDI-Sept.28,Oct.5&12,2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **FRUCTUOSO SEDUTAN** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 465; Page No. 93; Book No. VI; Series of 2001 of Notary Public Jovito M. Salvador of Muntinlupa City.
(PDI-Sept.28, Oct. 5 & 12, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

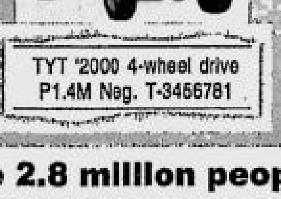
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO C. CANLAPAN of Mandaluyong City who died on January 31, 2001, has been extrajudicially settled by and among his legal heirs and is entered as an official document in the notarial register of Angelina T. Santos, notary public of New Jersey, United State of America on July 30, 2001 with corresponding certificate of authentication by the consulate general of the Philippines in New York, New York, United States of America Joseph Gerard B. Angeles, Consul, Foreign Service of the Philippines.
(PDI- Oct. 5, Oct. 12, & 19 2001.)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased JOSE C. APOSTOL has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on September 1, 2001, as per Doc. 87, Page 19, Book LX, Series of 2001 of Notary Public Benjamin L. Rabo of Quezon City. PDI-9/21, 28 & 10/5, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the S2 License No. 8199r98-318 issued to Dra. Elena Cua-Lobo was lost.



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SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg., 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270 * 4214 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE/ SURPLUS AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

I. ITEMS DESCRIPTION/LOCATION — SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

	ITEMS DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
Lot 1	Generator Trains & Generators at Bldg. 6090 & 6325 Yard, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 2:00 p.m.
Lot 2	12 x Condemned Buildings at SBIA, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 2:30 p.m.
Lot 3	50 Ton Portal Crane at Alava Pier, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 3:00 p.m.
Lot 4	Abandoned Furniture, Fixtures & Other Properties by Subic Live, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 3:30 p.m.
Lot 5	Abandoned Properties by Seaway Marines, Philippine Inc., SBMA	October 18, 2001, 4:00 p.m.
Lot 6	Abandoned Properties by Great China Airlines, SBMA	October 18, 2001, 4:30 p.m.

II. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Room 201, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

1. Certificate of Accreditation as Scrap Hauler from Trade & Tourism Group or PPMD, SBMA.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR 2000) of the bidder or copies of Audited Financial Statement of the Company and Certification of Cash Deposit by a reputable bank.

III. Deadline for submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on **October 11, 2001, Thursday (5:00 p.m.)**. No extension.

IV. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **October 15, 2001, Monday (3:00 p.m.)**.

V. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or Manager's Check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

VI. Inspection will strictly be by Group on the following schedules:

Lot 1 & 3	**October 10, 2001**	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lot 2 & 6	**October 11, 2001**	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Lot 4 & 5	**October 12, 2001**	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VII. For other information, inquiries and/or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4214/4483 (c/o Danny Sanchez).

VIII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 3rd day of October 2001.

(Sgd.) **CAPT. VICTOR L. MAMON**
SDA for Operations &
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI -- Oct. 4, 5 & 6, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all registered Life Insurance Companies and Health Maintenance Organizations to pre-qualify, to bid and to service the NFA Group Hospitalization, Term Life and Accident Insurance Programs for 4816 employees and Executive Health Care Program for 138 executivcs for the year 2002. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

October 5-10, 2001	-	Issuance of pre-qualification requirements
October 18, 2001	-	Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification documents
October 24-25, 2001	-	Issuance of bid documents
October 29, 2001(10:00 AM)	-	Pre-bidding conference
November 6, 2001		
(9:15-10:00 AM)	-	Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	-	Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA**
Officer-In-Charge, DLA and
Vice Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Oct. 4 & 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that MSF Tire Rubber, Inc., (the "Corporation"), with SEC Registration No. AS095-000694 issued on January 26, 1995, has filed an Amended Articles of Incorporation shortening the term of its existence up to March 1, 2001. Persons, if there be any, who have claims against the corporation are hereby enjoined to submit their claims with the Securities and Exchange Commission (EDSA, Mandaluyong City) or with **Mr. Fortunato B. Cruz of PricewaterhouseCoopers Financial Advisors, Inc.**, the Corporation's designated Liquidator/Trustee, on or before **27 October 2001** for proper verification of their valid claims.

This will serve as a notice to all parties of the legal dissolution of MSF.

(PDI -- Oct. 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

03 October 2001

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contract listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
Lingap Para sa Kawal Pilipino Housing Project, Bacolod City/La Carlota City, Negros Occidental	Construction of 10 Housing units	P1.40	C	Small "B" for Building

A. Eligibility Statement forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline for submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on **October 15, 2001**. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 16, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI -- Oct. 5 & 12, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (COBAC)

September 19, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "AAA" and registration of "Large B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project construction of NCPDHP and BPS Building Phase II located at RITM, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License and Issuance of Eligibility Documents — **October 8, 2001**
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Documents — **October 12, 2001**
3. Posting of eligible contractors — **October 17, 2001**
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents — **October 18-19, 2001**
5. Pre-bid Conference 10:00 AM **November 15, 2001**
6. Submission and Bids (Deadline) 10:00 AM **December 18, 2001**
7. Opening of Bids 10:00 AM **December 18, 2001**

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Ground Floor, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00).

COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred. In the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) **ASEC. ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D.**
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – Sept. 27, 30 & Oct. 5, 2001)

Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (045) 900-0092

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY, and Construction of:

Package 010-2001:	DOE PROJECTS AT BACOLOR
Package 011-2001:	DOE PROJECTS AT PORAC
Package 012-2001:	DOE PROJECTS AT MABALACAT

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main Office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga from **October 8-12, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2001.**

Pre-qualification meeting is scheduled on **October 17, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd.) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 3 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OLD NAWASA BLDG. □ 176 ARROCEROS STREET □ 1000 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance of RA 7041

A. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

General Services Division

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IV, Item No. OMBA-ADO4-1-1998, SG-22; Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 3 years of relevant experience; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.

SUPPLY OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-SUO1-1-1998, SG-10, Education: Bachelor's degree, Experience: None required; Training: None required, Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.

DRIVER I, Item No. OMBA-DRV1-12-1998; SG-3; Education: Elementary School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Driver License (MC11, s-96-Cat. II)

B. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Accounting Division

BOOKKEEPER; Item No. OMBA-BKR-1-1998; SG-8; Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

C. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION GROUP

Public Assistance Bureau

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II, Item No. OMBA-AGIO2-15-1998, SG-18, Education: Bachelor of Laws, Experience: Six months of experience in conducting community work system studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work. Training: 8 hours of relevant training, Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR) OR Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. Experience: One year of experience in conducting community work, system studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work. Training: 8 hours of relevant training. Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position.

D. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

Case Assessment and Reinvestigation Bureau

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-SPPO1-5-1998, SG-26, Education: PD 1275, Experience: Members of the Prosecution Staff shall be selected from among qualified and professionally trained members of the legal profession who are of proven integrity and competence and have been in the actual practice of the legal profession for at least five (5) years prior to their appointment or have held during the like period, any position requiring the qualification of a lawyer."

Appellate and Special Action Bureau

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICER I, Item Nos. OMBA-SPPO1-27-1998, OMBA-SPPO1-33-1998, SG-26, Education: PD 1275, Experience: Members of the Prosecution Staff shall be selected from among qualified and professionally trained members of the legal profession who are of proven integrity and competence and have been in the actual practice of the legal profession for at least five (5) years prior to their appointment or have held during the like period, any position requiring the qualification of a lawyer."

Prosecution Bureau

SPECIAL PROSECUTION OFFICER I, Item No. OMBA-SPP01-29-1998, SG-26, Education: PD 1275, Experience: Members of the Prosecution Staff shall be selected from among qualified and professionally trained members of the legal profession who are of proven integrity and competence and have been in the actual practice of the legal profession for at least five (5) years prior to their appointment or have held during the like period, any position requiring the qualification of a lawyer."

All interested applicants should submit to the **Human Resource Management Division, OLD NAWASA Building, 176 Arroceros St., Manila** a letter of application starting the position and Item No. they are applying for on or before **October 16, 2001**. Previous applicants need to re-submit a letter of application.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
(NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION)
Lungsod ng Quezon

OFFICE ADDRESS:	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER	TELEPHONE NOS.:	97-60-71 to 78
	E. DE LOS SANTOS AVENUE	CABLE	NIAPHIL
	QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES	TELEX	42802 NIA PM

INVITATION FOR AUCTION SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE EQUIPMENT
(AS IS, WHERE IS)

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites all interested bidders to participate in the auction sale of various unserviceable heavy equipment like bulldozers, cranes, graders, loaders, excavators, etc. of various make and model; transport equipment like dump trucks, stake trucks, pick-ups, jeeps, motorcycles, etc. of various make and model; support equipment like concrete mixers, generators, centrifugal water pumps, welding machines, etc. of various make and model; and office equipment located at the venues stated below:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY. (UNITS)	TOTAL APPRAISED VALUE	VENUE	TEL. NO.	FAX NO.	DATE & TIME OF AUCTION
1	Various Heavy, Transport, Support and Office Equipment	2,804	P1,464,601.58	Reg. 1- Bayaoas, Urdaneta, Pangasinan	(075) 568-2308 (075) 568-4314	(075) 568-2308	Nov. 6, 2001 at 9:00 AM
2	-do-	25	70,320.00	CAR - Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	(074) 422-2435	(074) 422-2435	-do-
3	-do-	50	744,255.00	Reg. 2 - Minante, Cauayan City, Isabela	(078) 652-2033	(078) 652-0284	-do-
4	-do-	12	478,665.00	MRIIS - Minante, Cauayan, Isabela	(078) 652-0288 (078) 652-0289	(078) 652-2150	-do-
5	-do-	192	3,423,064.90	Reg. 3 -Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan	(044) 766-2467 (044) 766-3887	(044) 766-3888	-do-
6	-do-	7	181,448.00	UPRIIS - Cabanatuan City	(044) 463-1350	(044) 463-1350	-do-
7	-do-	97	1,864,015.17	Reg. 4 - Pila, Laguna	(049) 559-0726	(049) 559-0726	-do-
8	-do-	83	537,487.25	Reg. 5 - Panganiban Drive, Naga City	(054) 473-8967	(054) 473-2882	-do-
9	-do-	68	681,430.28	Reg. 6 - Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City	(033) 336-3863	(033) 337-6597	Nov. 8, 2001 at 9:00 AM
10	-do-	22	102,814.60	Reg. 7&8 - Marasbaras, Tacloban City	(053) 323-2408	(053) 323-3072	-do-
11	-do-	81	1,346,470.10	Reg. 9 - Zamboanga City	(062) 991-1081	(062) 991-9961	Nov. 13, 2001 at 9:00 AM
12	-do-	61	3,358,058.24	Reg. 10 - Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City	(088) 858-4167	(088) 858-4167	-do-
13	-do-	218	7,301,429.66	Reg. 11 - Davao City	(082) 227-3852	(082) 224-0717	-do-
14	-do-	94	808,541.02	Reg. 12 - Midsayap, North Cotabato	(064) 229-8562 (064) 201-3160	(064) 201-3179	-do-
15	-do-	355	15,179,000.32	Reg. 13 - Butuan City	(085) 342-1436	(085) 342-1408	-do-

Detailed informations on equipment type, make, model and corresponding appraised value may be obtained either at the Property Division, PPRD, NIA-C.O., Quezon City, Tel. No. 926-2066 or 929-6071 loc. 138 or at the different bidding venues mentioned above. Actual sites and condition may be confirmed upon conduct of site inspection from **October 15 to 26, 2001**. Bid documents may be secured from the same field offices from **October 15 to 26, 2001**. Pre-bidding conference will be on **October 30, 2001** at the aforementioned venues.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities found therein and to accept/reject such proposals that may be advantageous to NIA's interest.

(Sgd.) **JESUS EMMANUEL M. PARAS**
Administrator

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 5, 2001)

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Josephus B. Jimenez

PERHAPS, it is our way of recharging ourselves after 12 months of managing highly stressful events and relationships from hiring to firing. Every year, the thousand or so HR professionals from Makati to Sultan Kudarat, from Tawi-tawi to Batanes come together as one family to partake of the good news of our salvation as nurturers of organizations and people.

Come Oct. 10 up to the 13th at the Baguio Country Club, the country's 1,000 or so human resources professionals will convene for PMAP's (Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) 38th National Conference, whereby world class HR gurus and practitioners, COOs and CEOs converge in the Pine City to discuss global issues about the human capital in the new economy.

Hearing and empowering

The theme is apropos: "Breakt HR oughs@Convergence." The summit meeting of 21st century mindsets seeks to achieve breakthroughs or quantum leaps in the development of HR knowledge and in the formulation of long-term strategies to advance the HR competencies in these very turbulent and erratic times.

We come to Baguio to regain the passions and the spirit that we somehow lost along the way as we combat organizational inefficiencies and cynicism, as we try to empower people while losing our own enthusiasm. We come to Baguio to recapture the empowerment and find healing among each other.

Strategic focus

The topics chosen demonstrate the strategic focus of the conference. On the first day, the next president of the Republic, Education Secretary Raul S. Roco, will give the keynote address: "Talent Development in the Philippines in the New Economy." In the afternoon, three leading CEOs in the country will tackle the topic "Crafting Strategic Frameworks, Linkages and Responses for a Rapidly Changing Business Environment."

They are Concepcion Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion, Lapanday Holdings chair Luis G. Lorenzo Jr. and Smart Communications president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno.

Global mindset

The second day will showcase a surprise global speaker from New York whose name is withheld for security reason. He will tackle "Converging to Last: Building, Reinforcing and Nurturing a Global Organization." It will be followed by a more micro perspective, the "Economic and Political Prospects for the Philippines in the New Century" by Raul V. Fabella, dean of the UP School of Economics.

The next session will showcase some breakthrough company performance like Aztra Ceneca's Value-Driven Corporate Transformation to be delivered by its president and CEO, Edgardo C. Enriquez, then Novartis' Competency-Based Corporate Transformation to be given by its HR director, lawyer Hector V. Fernandez, FPM and Bristol Myers' Leadership Driven Corporate Transformation by its HR director, Thelma P. Meneses.

HR best practices

The lunch speaker for the second day is AIM's associate dean Sonny Coloma on the topic "Thinking Tolls for HR Practices and Strategies." This will be followed by four sets of concurrent sessions to be conducted by PMAP speakers.

The first is "Mentoring and Growing Your Own Leaders" by Dulce Edillor, training VP of Security Bank. The next will be "New Motivational Tools for Performance Improvement" of CCEC. The third will be "Technology-Aided HR Programs" by Jeffrey N. Davis of Oracle Asia. I will be honored to speak with Ambassador Roy Señeres and former Labor Secretary Benny Laguesma on the fourth session, "Keeping Industrial Peace in a Period of Great Change."

Breaking barriers

New HR technologies will be presented in the next set of sessions. The first is about Leadership Development through E-Learning by SGV's Vic Magdaraog, then Performance-Based Pay Systems by Alliance Atlantic's Sandy Togonon, then MIS/Intra-Net Based HR Applications by Hewlett Packard's Amy Alde, and Labor Contracting by Dean Froilan Bacungan and Ces Azucena.

The third day will start with a plenary session with Watson Wyatt's director J.P. Orbeta on "Building Global Benchmarks."

Knowledge management

AIM professor Ricky Lim will present his paper "How to Build a Knowledge-Based Future," to be followed by lawyer Edith Hechanova with her research paper entitled "The State of Knowledge Management in the Philippines."

The company that will win PMAP's Employer of the Year award will present "Becoming an Employer of Choice." We know the name but our lips are sealed.

Keeping pace with the future

Three successful HR executives will conduct a panel discussion on HRM 2010: Back to the Future (faster, better, cheaper HRM). They are lawyer Pilar Almira, director of HR Approaches Inc.; Ramon F.R. Medina of Ayala Corp., and Renato Jiao of Procter and Gamble.

Then Cesar Oandasan, direct from Singapore, Eastman Kodak's HR director, will discuss "Suiting Up for Warp Speed: Stress Proofing the HRM Manager."

Corporate citizenship

The closing ceremonies will highlight the 25th PMAP Awards, recognizing the best employer, the best personnel manager and the best employee program. The keynote address will be delivered by Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas.

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Uniden RP unit shifts to mobile phone making

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JAPANESE electronics firm Uniden is infusing P134 million into its loss-making Philippine subsidiary to manufacture cellular phones in its 750-square-meter manufacturing facility at the Light Industry Science Park in Laguna.

The global positioning system (GPS) cellular phone is expected to replace Uniden's production of cordless phones, which it had discontinued in June last year due to low market demand.

Uniden's new project will involve the assembly of raw materials brought in from Asian countries and the United Kingdom. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority board approved Uniden's petition for fiscal incentives.

The project aims to produce 84,000 units of GPS cellular phones in its first year of operations and up to 325,000 units by the third year. All output will be sold in Japan. The project is expected to generate $24.516 million average export sales over the next five years.

Uniden had invested P1.319 billion in its Laguna plant since 1995 which initially produce cordless phones and later expanded to the production of scanner, pager, radar detector, marine radio and CB (citizen's band) radio.

The GPS cellular phone enables its user to access the emergency response center in crisis situations. The system provides the user's location for quick responses to emergencies.

Uniden Philippines lost P354.618 million on sales of P1.978 billion last year. The company suffered P650.518 million in losses on sales of P2.009 billion in 2000.

Gov't to complete 'Shiboshai' worth $800M in Nov.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT aims to complete before end-November the planned private placement offering in Japan or Shiboshai worth $800 million.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the 10-year facility aims to raise additional funding for the government's budget requirements next year.

The Shiboshai will be undertaken in lieu of a "Samurai" or sovereign bond offering which was considered earlier by the government.

Edeza said the Department of Finance had already completed the organizational meeting for the offering with lead managers Fuji Bank, Nomura Securities and Daiwa Securities.

The national treasurer will go to Tokyo next week to meet with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and Nippon Export and Investment Bank "to ensure the smooth processing" of the government's request for guarantee. JBIC, however, was given the right of first refusal to provide the offering's guarantee cover, said Edeza in a statement issued yesterday. The guarantee is expected to lower the government's borrowing costs.

Edeza also announced that it had secured the necessary approvals to issue zero coupon bonds with maturity of two, five, seven and 10 years.

The domestic borrowing is expected to raise up to P300 billion over the next few years. The maiden offering worth P3.5 billion will be launched this month.

Buyers of special Treasury notes get BIR exemption

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it would exempt from the 20-percent final withholding tax the buyers of the P15-billion zero-coupon Treasury notes but only if there would only be 19 or less buyers.

In an interview yesterday, BIR Deputy Commissioner Edmundo Pascual Guevara said the BIR transmitted this ruling to the Bureau of Treasury last week.

The ruling, however, requires the buyer to present a representation or warranty stating that the bonds are to be bought by the original purchaser for and on his own behalf, or on behalf of a single purchaser who is buying for his own account.

The Department of Finance and the Bureau of Treasury have decided to bid out the T-notes instead of issuing them exclusively to the Caucus for Development NGO Network (Code-NGO), which had proposed the issuance of the notes.

Code-NGO, an umbrella organization of around 2,500 non-government organizations and cooperatives, aims to raise some P1 billion, net of flotation expenses, to serve as the permanent endowment for the so-called Hanap Buy Fund, which will extend financing to micro-credit and technical assistance projects.

Code-NGO chair Maria Socorro Camacho-Reyes said that the group would participate in the auction through Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

A summit . . .

(From page B1)

The topic is "Business As Citizen: HRM's Role in Effective Corporate Governance."

Come to Baguio

So, if you wish to commune with the gurus on the art and science of managing people, come with us to Baguio. It won't be all cerebral though as the PMAP organizer led by president Fredi Marquez and VP-NC chair Ernie Espinosa made sure that there would be a balance between learning and social events, including sports activities.

PMAP is well known for its world-class competence in managing events of this magnitude. Bong Austero, the program director, had spent sleepless nights to make sure that the minutest details were anticipated and well managed. The PMAP secretariat led by Gerry Plana is making sure no stone is left unturned to make this three-day affair truly eventful and productive.

So, let's all learn and enjoy in Baguio.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@

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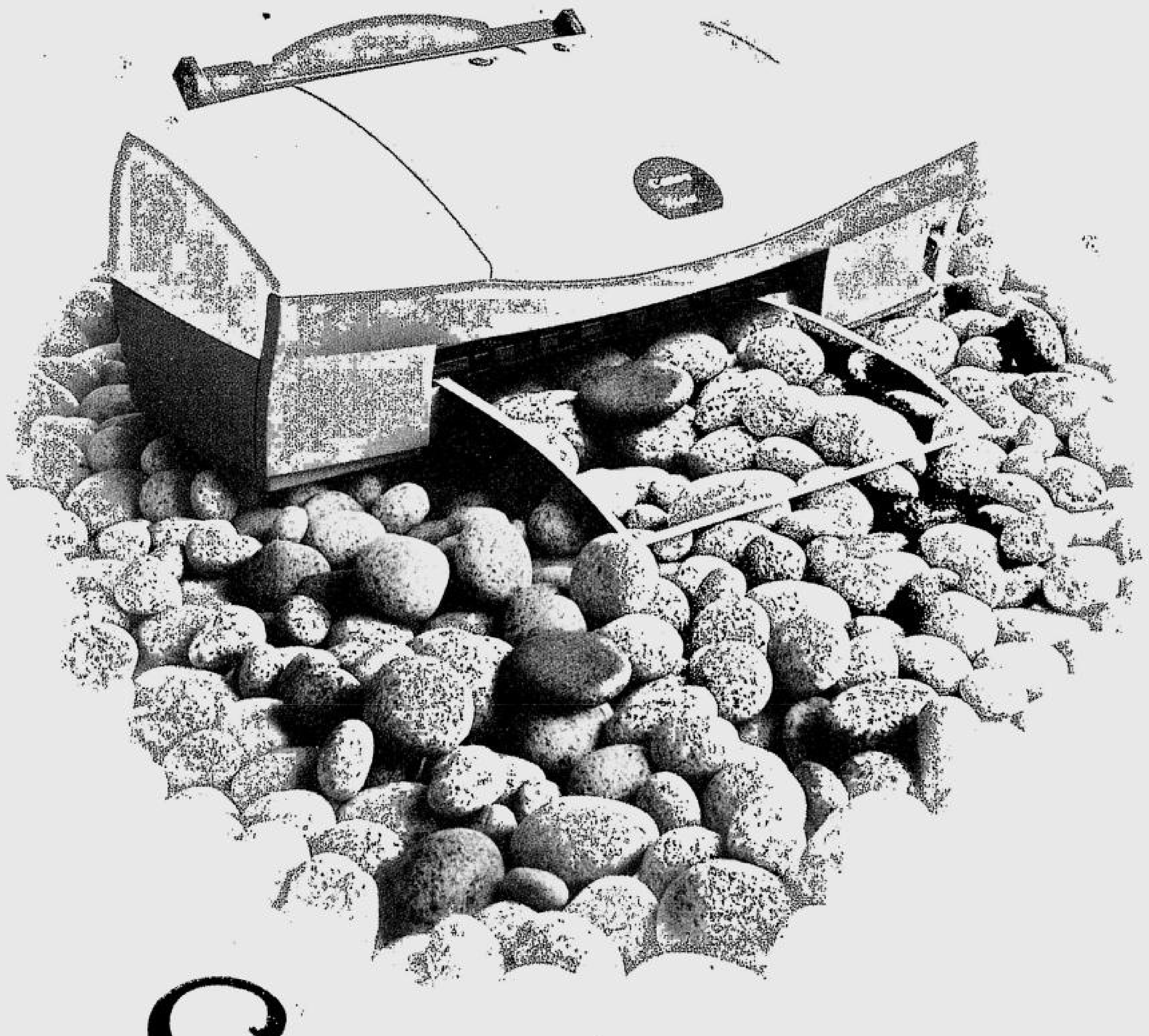

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Edilberto "Eddie" Cayabyab Alvaran

Born on February 25, 1925

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 2, 2001 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **EDNA**; children **LINDA & BOBBY, MIMI & BOY, EFREN, EVELYN & ROMY, ELVIRA, CUSTER, RICKY & PAZ**; grandchildren **JOYCE & ADAM, DENNIS, MICHAEL & SHERYLL, JENNIFER, HAZEL, CELINE, SHERILLYN, KATHY, ERIC** (†), **EDWIN, ELIZA, & EARL JUSTIN**; great grandchild **MAI-MAI**; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel Resurrection 3, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 6, 2001, 3:00 p.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park.

In Loving Memory
of the
100th Birth Anniversary
of

JUSTICE ARSENIO P. DIZON

October 5, 1901 – August 4, 1990

We, the members of his family, request all his loved ones, relatives, friends, former associates and students, and those whose lives he had touched in one way or another to remember him... in their prayers.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live; and whoever lives and believes in Me never die."
John 11:25-26

ATTY. ARTURO V. MIRANDA

San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 2, 2001.

Family, relatives and friends request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Premier II.

Cremation will be on October 7, 2001 at Loyola Crematory Services at Guadalupe, Makati City at 12:00 Noon.

For God
so loved
the
world,
that He
gave
His only
begotten
Son,
that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall not
perish
but have
everlasting
life.

2 Corinthians 4:14

JUANITO O. YSRAEL, SR.

(September 23, 1913 - September 30, 2001)

Died in the Grace of our Lord
at the age of 88.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 1324 Oroquieta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Interment will take place on Saturday, October 6, at the Manila North Cemetery, immediately after the Funeral Mass at the Espiritu Santo Church at 2:30 PM.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.

TO STA. MESA
EDSA
AURORA BOULEVARD
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
SITE
TO MARIKINA
FARMER'S PLAZA
ARANETA ASTRODOME
RUSTANS
N

CONNIE YAP WONG

May 17, 1949 - October 3, 2001

A loving wife to **MANNY**, *a beloved mother to* **CHERRY** *and husband* **JAMES, MARK** *and* **MICK**; *a wonderful lola to* **MARTIN**; *and an adoptive mother to the clans of* **Yap** *and* **Wong** *and to her many friends and colleagues.*

We will surely miss the way she takes care of all of us in her loving way.

We ask all of those whose lives have been touched by Connie to remember her in your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz at G. Araneta Ave. Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 6, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park in Baesa, Caloocan City, right after the 8:00 a.m. requiem Mass at the La Funeraria Paz.

In Loving Memory
on the
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

SALUD S. TESORO

who passed away on October 6, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Immaculate Conception Parish Church, *Cubao, Q.C.*	6:00 AM
Sto. Rosario Parish Church, *Makinabang, Baliwag, Bulacan*	6:00 AM
St. John the Evangelist, *Tanauan, Batangas*	6:30 AM
Tesoro Mausoleum, *Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City*	7:30 AM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, *Ermita, Manila*	8:00 AM
Tesoro Penthouse, *1325 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila*	12:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	12:15 PM

Family and friends are requested to attend the 7:30 AM Mass at the Tesoro Mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that is Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39

PAULINA M. SUAREZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 3, 2001 at the age of 67.

Her husband **Ben**; children **Alex** and **Estrel**, **Dado** and **Doris**, **Nona** and **Pie**; grandchildren **Nestle Boy**, **Ruth**, **Mark** and **Ben-Ben**; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel A of the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, October 7, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. Cremation services will immediately follow.

CANDIDO "Dedeng" GATMAITAN

Peacefully joined his Creator on
October 2, 2001 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **ZENY**; children **JOYCE, FRANCIS**, and **LORENZE**; son-in-law **JERICO**; grandchildren **JAN VINCE** and **JENICA**, and his relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Vigil: October 4 & 5, 2001 at Plaridel St., Baliwag, Bulacan
October 6, 2001 at Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Novaliches, Quezon City

Interment will be on Sunday, October 7, 2001 at 2:00 p.m., Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Contact numbers: 0917-9328063 / 0917-3976420

Our Dearest Papa

HERNANDO M. MAGALLANES

(April 14, 1907 – October 1, 2001)

has joined our mother ***Catalina*** *and our brother* ***Vicente***
in eternal Peace with our Lord.

We, his children **Jezebel, Concha** and **Pat Aspiras, Diana, Ana Lourdes, Rosario** and **Francisco Billano, Melanie** and **George del Carmen** and **Catherine**; his sisters, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California, USA on October 6, 2001.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. at the St. Ignatius Village Chapel, Quezon City.

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the year 2002 services to wit:

A. PUBLIC BIDDING	B. SEALED BIDDING (2nd INVITATION)
PRINTING & BINDING OF THE "RECORD OF THE SENATE" a) Vol. I, First Regular Session, Eleventh Congress covering the period July 27 to September 29, 1998 (200 cps. with 832 pages/copy)	1. Garbage Disposal
b) Vol. IV, Third Regular Session, Tenth Congress covering the period January 20 to February 20 and May 25, 1998 (200 cps. with 1,527 pages/copy)	2. Rental of Drinking Fountains
	3. Sanitizers/Deodorizers
c) Vol. II, Second Regular Session, Tenth Congress covering the period January 20 to June 5 (PM), 1997 (200 cps. with 676 pages/copy)	4. Subscription to Cable TV
	5. Supply of Flowers

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from **8-12 October 2001**. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **15 October 2001**. Incomplete requirements will not be entertained. The pre-bidding conferences and bidding schedules shall be announced to all prequalified bidders.

All bids under the public bidding category must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price or Php 10,000 **whichever is higher** in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. **Late bids will be rejected.**

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City from **8-12 October 2001**. Schedule of conferences for services under the same category if any, will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

Winning bidders from both categories shall post a performance bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check, or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts, the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THEIR AWARD, AND TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN, AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Oct. 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY SALE

Notice is hereby given that the following subscriptions of shares of stocks in **Vibrant Manufacturing Co., Inc.** (the "Company") are delinquent:

Shareholder	No. of Shares	Amount Due
REMEDIOS L. RODRIGUEZ	1,750	P656,250
ALAIDA P. TABIN	1,750	656,250

The Board of Directors of the Company in a resolution dated October 2, 2001 has ordered the sale of those delinquent stocks in a public auction to be held on **November 5, 2001** at 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Room of the law office of Picazo Buyco Tan Fider & Santos at the 8th Floor, Singapore Airlines Building, 136 H. V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City in accordance with Section 68 of the Corporation Code, viz:

"Unless the delinquent stockholder pays to the corporation, on or before the date specified for the sale of the delinquent stock, the balance due on his subscription, plus accrued interest costs of advertisement and expenses of sale, or unless the board of directors otherwise orders, said delinquent stock shall be sold at public auction to such bidder who shall offer to pay the full amount of the balance on the subscription together with accrued interest, costs of advertisement and expenses of sale, for the smallest number of shares or fraction of a share."

By order of the Board of Directors
October 4, 2001, Parañaque City

VIBRANT MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

(PDI - Oct. 5, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ALBAY
MUNICIPALITY OF CAMALIG
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: October 5, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP) and* intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 0138202ILU-A for the Construction of Iluluan Level II Water System at Iluluan ARC, Camalig, Albay Province. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Camalig, Albay and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project : Construction of intake box, reservoir and sump box, elevated concrete water tank, pedestal, stand pipes, pump house, and transmission and distribution lines.

Item No.	Scope of Work	Quantity	Unit
I	Excavation	312.00	cu.m.
II	Intake Box	4.20	cu.m.
III	Reservoir and Culvert Box	60.97	cu.m.
IV	Elevated Water Tank	20.48	cu.m.
V	Pedestal/Standpipe	20.00	units
VI	Plumbing Distribution Lines	2,000.00	in.m.
VII	Pump House	2	sets
VIII	Secondary Power Lines		
A	Pump # 1 (2HP)	1.0	unit
B	Pump # 2 (3HP)	1.0	unit

Bid Security : P60,000.00
Bid Closing Date : November 14, 2001, 10:00 a.m.
Project Duration : 150 calendar days

Minimum Equipment's Required
One (1) - unit one bagger mixer, three (3) units - concrete vibrator

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **October 9, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand pesos only (P2,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **November 6, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office, Municipality of Camalig, Albay.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Camalig, Albay, on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. PAZ MUNOZ**
Mayor/Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Oct. 5, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
7th Judicial Region
Branch 33
Dumaguete City

BOSTON FINANCE and INVESTMENT CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
SPS. ROSELLER and CRISTINA FORTIN,
Defendants.

CIVIL CASE NO. 12696
for
COLLECTION OF SUM OF MONEY

x---/

ORDER

As prayed for and for reasons stated therein, the motion is granted.
SO ORDERED.
In Camera, 22 September 2000 in the City of Dumaguete, Philippines.

(Sgd.) FE LUALHATI D. BUSTAMANTE
Judge

Copy furnished:
1. Atty. Herbert P. Timtim, Suite 302, Third Floor Uymatiao Building, San Jose Street, Dgte. City

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
7TH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 33
DUMAGUETE CITY

BOSTON FINANCE & INVESTMENT CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
SPS. ROSELLER FORTIN and CRISTINA FORTIN,
Defendants.

CIVIL CASE NO. 12696

x---/

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2000, plaintiff filed a complaint for Collection of Sum of Money alleging that:

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, the Plaintiff Corporation, by counsel, unto this Honorable Court, most respectfully states:

1 That plaintiff is a corporation, duly organized under the existing laws of the Philippines with principal office at [illegible] Avenue, Bacolod City and with branch office at Independencia St., Dumaguete City whereat court processes may be served.

2 That defendants ROSELLER FORTIN and CRISTINA FORTIN are spouses, both of legal age with residence and postal address at Maslog, Sibulan, Negros Oriental, whereat they may be served with summons.

3 That on June 16, 1997, defendants obtained a direct loan from the plaintiff in the amount of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY (P218,190.00) PESOS payable on installments for a term of Twenty (20) months. A copy of the Promissory Note is hereto attached and marked as Annex "A".

4 That to secure the fulfillment of the loan obligation defendants executed a Deed of Chattel Mortgage on June 16, 1997. A copy of the Deed of Chattel Mortgage is hereto attached and marked as Annex "B".

5 That due to the failure on the part of the defendants to pay their loan obligation, plaintiff filed an Extrajudicial Foreclosure against the unit offered as collateral before the Office of the Provincial Sheriff of Negros Oriental, however said unit was already cannibalized for which reason extrajudicial foreclosure as a remedy cannot be availed of. A copy of the Sheriff's Return of Service is hereto attached and marked as Annex "C".

6 That the condition in the Promissory Note is such that upon default of any installment when due, all the other installments shall become due and payable together with all interest accruing.

7 That despite demands defendant have failed to pay and continue to fail to pay the loan obligation up to the present. A copy of the Demand Letter is hereto attached and marked as Annex "D".

8 That defendants total obligation as of March 17, 2000 is THREE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE & 90/100 (P303,725.90) excluding attorney's fees, as shown from the statement of account hereto attached and marked as Annex "E".

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is respectfully prayed that judgment be rendered:

1 Directing the defendants to pay plaintiff the sum of THREE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE & 90/100 (P303,725.90) PESOS plus legal interest and litigation expenses up to the time of actual payment.

2 Directing the defendants to pay attorney's fees in the amount of Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P30,300.00).

Plaintiff prays for such relief and remedies, which may be deemed just and equitable in the premises.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.
Dumaguete City, Philippines, April 19, 2000.

(Sgd.) HERBERT P. TIMTIM
Counsel for Plaintiff
Suite 302, Third Floor, Uymatiao Bldg.,
San Jose St., Dumaguete City
IBP No. 481749 12/29/99
PTR No. 7872018 - 1/4/00
Both issued at Dumaguete City

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION

I, JULIET B. GUARIN, of legal age, widow, Filipino and a resident of Sibulan, Negros Oriental, Philippines, hereby depose and say:

That I am the Branch Manager of Boston Finance and Investment Corporation with business address at Independencia St., Dumaguete City, which is the plaintiff in the above-entitled case.

That I have caused the preparation of the foregoing complaint and have read and understood the same and that the allegations contained therein are true and correct to the best of my own personal knowledge.

That I have not commenced any other actions, or proceedings involving the same issue in any court, tribunal, or agency of the government.

That to the best of my own personal knowledge as the accused-appellant in the above-entitled case, no such actions or proceedings is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any tribunal agency, and

That I should thereafter learn that a similar action or proceedings has been filed or is pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, any tribunal or agency, I undertake to report that fact within five (5) days therefrom to the Court or Agency wherein this pleading and sworn statement (certification) has been filed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of March, 2000 in the City of Dumaguete, Philippines.

(Sgd.) JULIET V. GUARIN
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 30th day of March 2000 in the City of Dumaguete, Philippines, affiant exhibiting to me her Residence Cert. No. 05984390 issued at Dumaguete City, on January 21, 2000.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FILOMENO J. GONZALES
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2000
PTR No. 5292663J
Issued on 1/20/2001
Dumaguete City
TIN 113-637-933

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2000 an Order has issued by this Court granting the plaintiff's Motion for Publication of Summons.

NOW THEREFORE, defendants Sps. Roseller and Cristina Fortin, formerly resident of Maslog, Sibulan, Negros Oriental, and now residing in the United States of America, are hereby required to answer the complaint in the above-entitled case within Sixty (60) days from the last publication, otherwise plaintiff will take judgment against you and demand the relief prayed for in the complaint.

The summons together with the complaint, shall be published at the expense of the plaintiff once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of national circulation in the Philippines.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE FE LUALHATI D. BUSTAMANTE, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 21st day of December 2000, at Dumaguete City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) LALAINE J. ERAMES
Clerk of Court V

(PDI – Oct. 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

Scholasticans' night out

THE ST. Scholastica's Alumnae Foundation Inc. (SSAFI), headed by its president Marichu H. Nepomuceno, and the ways and means committee present "Scholasticans' Night Out," a dance evening with the combo "Spirit of '67" tonight at 8 p.m. at Via Mare, Penthouse, Tektite Tower, Pasig City. The evening's proceeds will fund SSAFI's numerous outreach programs. For ticket inquiries, call Noemi Laca at 524-1559.

Take off with Wings

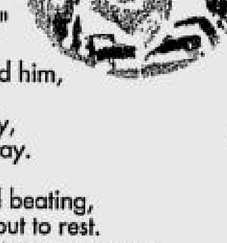
WINGS cigarillos was first developed in 1994 in France and Holland. It is easy to smoke, and the brand stands for vitality, independence, and energy to travel. Wings cigarillos is manufactured by Swedish Match and distributed in the Philippines by Ott Louie Phils. Inc. Today, at 7 p.m. at the Enterprise Center, Lobby Level, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, will be the Macanudo and Wings cigar tasting. Taste the adventure of Wings.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

Jose Manuel L. Fernandez

July 27, 1998 - September 23, 2001



He Only Takes The Best

God saw he was getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So He put his arms around him
And whispered, "Come with Me."

With tear-filled eyes we watched him,
Suffer and fade away.
Although we love him deeply,
We could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard-working hands put to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.

Author unknown

His parents, Jun and Daisy Fernandez, brother Mowie, grandparents Manoling and Baby Fernandez, and Luisa Laurente, uncles, aunts, and cousins wish to thank everyone who became part of his happy life and heaped love upon the family during their time of bereavement.

PILAR S. CORDOVA

October 20, 1923 - October 02, 2001

Her beloved children **Girlie & Mon; Beckie & Euly; Cynx & Romy; Miyam & Frank; Jeff & Marp; Jon & Cecile**; grandchildren & great grandchildren; and **Cholo**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on October 7, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9 AM Mass.

"And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord.
It shall rejoice in His salvation."
Psalm 35:9

ALFRED PILAPIL ALMARIO

"Alfie"

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 3, 2001 at the age of 42.

His beloved wife **Irene Atayde-Almario**; his children **AJ**, **Peachina**, **Montito** and **Isa**; parents **Jose** and **Catalina**; brothers and sisters and their spouses: **Marite** and **Peter**, **Clemen** and **Byeon**, **Carl** and **Annette**, **Cecile** and **Marcos**, **Susan**, and **Gene**; his parents-in-law **Ramon** and **Pilar**; his brothers-in-law and their spouses: **Ramon**, **Art** and **Jojo**, **Michael** and **Deedee**, **Jimmy**, **Danny** and **Helen**; family and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Green Meadows, Quezon City. Interment details to be announced later.

Novena Masses will be held daily at 8:00 p.m. at Christ the King Memorial Chapel.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death.
He will raise us to life with Jesus.
He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

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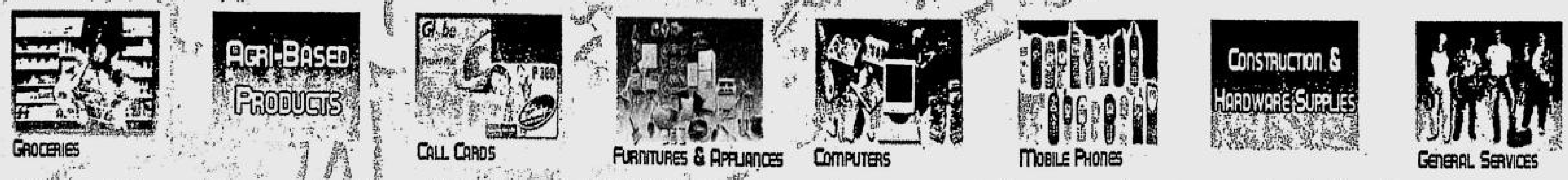

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2 RISE E-COMMERCE MARIKINA *Erlinda C. Sernadilla Rm. 302 #51 Bayanbayanan Ave. Marikina City (02) 934-7764(0919) 3949151*
3 RISE EXCEL PANGASINAN *Marcel G. Valdez Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan (075) 568-5116*
4 RISE GLOBAL CITY TAGUIG *Regina C. Velasco 355 B-8 GHQ Zone 1-C Signal Taguig, Metro Manila (02) 838-7883*
5 RISE E-NOVALICHES *Emma Daniel Our Lady of Mercy bldg Quirino High-way cor. Ramirez St., Novaliches Proper, Q.C. (02) 9358391/983-0346 (0919)8723689*
6 RISE PROJ. 8 QUEZON CITY *Rosario Rosoa 106-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City (02) 425-1413/454-0619 (0917)811-8979*
7 RISE COMMONWEALTH *Ofelia J. Bulleria 638 Grapes St. Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City (02) 932-2490/428-0840*
8 RISE ROOSEVELT *Emminarie Racca Unit 7, 3rd Flr. 316 Roosevelt Ave. SFDM, Quezon City (02) 330-9259(0917) 540-1634*
9 RISE DAGUPAN *Generoso Bornilla 443 Perez St. Dagupan City (075) 523-4264(0917) 7420556*
10 RISE DILIMAN, QC *Deo Ramon Olvina Blk. 3, Lot 18 De Leon St. Isidora Subd. Diliman, Quezon City (02) 931-8003 (0917) 8374464*
11 RISE E-COMMERCE CUBAO *Nila Ceñezal Rm 403 Diamond Bldg, 603 EDSA Cubao, Quezon City (02) 4182729(0917) 4948023*
12 RISE PACO *Allan Resterio 1155 Jl. Escoda St. Paco Market Paco, Manila (02) 562-0645(0917) 4987682*
13 RISE PALAWAN *Edsra Nixon BM Road, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan (048) 433-5254*
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15 RISE BIÑAN, LAGUNA *Lilibeth Gabriel Unit 305, University Center, National Highway, Biñan, Laguna (049) 539-0878(0919) 819-5899*
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BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

12 bright new ideas for entrepreneurs

BY MYRNA RODRIGUEZ-CO

IT IS often said that a small business always begins with a need or a want and the satisfaction of it. So, we went around asking people, like the staff of the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries (ISSI) and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation (Serdef), about their own needs that are not being served.

Here is a list of what our respondents say they want to see in the market. The ideas are a mixed bag—the true-blue entrepreneur has to sift through them and separate the whimsical from the practical, the wishful from the doable.

"I have a closet full of frying pans that are perfectly serviceable except that their teflon finish has peeled away. I think many other housewives have quite a few of these, too. So, would someone go into teflon-repainting service so that these could be used for non-stick frying again?"

—Nanette C. Milla

"*Takip ng kaldero* of various sizes. I have accumulated at least half a dozen pots and pans that have since parted with their lids, for one reason or another. If I could buy *takip* without the kettle then these pots and pans would be used again for the purpose for which they were created for: cooking.

By the same token, I'd also want pestles without mortars, soup bowl covers without bowls."

—Susan Talastas

"I wish that an entrepreneur would make available some kind of 'thermal' shoes with built-in foot pads/lining under the sole to soothe rheumatic pains. With these, arthritics like me don't have to immerse their feet in warm water every night.

I'd also like to obtain pot clamps with which to grip pots and pans with broken handles."

—Inday Almonte

"Bubble gum-like clay. I once got a bar at National many years ago, but never found it again. One puts a small amount of it on the base of figurines and ceramic pieces, and these breakables stick like crazy on table surfaces. Makes your decor pieces pet and child proof."

—Ludy Cubillas

"I wish that an entrepreneur would manufacture aluminum containers for rice cookers so that I can replace the worn out ones I have at home."

—Dado Sibayan

"I would really like to see the day that more environment friendly packaging materials would be used by our manufacturers. These materials should not be expensive and should prolong the shelf life of products. This way, we will have less garbage problems and a healthier environment."

—Arlene Liberal

"I saw this in Australia but I have not seen one yet in the local market: a foldable 'sampayan' made of light metal that opens and closes like an umbrella. Great for small spaces, like apartments and condo units.

"Also useful: small metal clamps hanging on plastic strings that can be used to hold kitchen towels, letters, memos, bills, stuffed toys and just about any small, 'clippable' items.

"This one I think is easy, especially for already existing shoemaking firms: plain shoes with different accessories like bows, rhinestones, biases of different colors, etc. A young lady would then be able to mix-match the same pair of shoes with any of the accessories to go with different clothes and different occasions."

—Celia Pascual

"I'll immediately make a beeline to any shop, store or supermarket that has any of the following hard-to-find items in its shelves:

(1) Sharp working kitchen knives that will not tarnish nor grow dull and can be sharpened time and again;

(2) Rubberized strip (similar to what gasoline boys use to clean-clear car windows) suitable for cleaning bath tub glass enclosures and clearing them of soap scums; and

(3) Strong, quality hooks for frame hangings, as the imported ones in the market are rather expensive.

—Cecile T. Morales

"I hope that an enterprising person would process bamboo poles into windows or 'venetian blinds' of different designs. These would look really beautiful in rest houses and restaurants."

—Caloy Bernardo

"Don't we all hang shoes, socks, underwear, etc. at the back of refrigerators so that they could dry in a jiffy? So what about a thermal chamber or closet in which we could hang laundered clothes to dry?

These would have adjustments: high for denims and other heavy fabric; low for silk and other light ones, etc. Clothes that are not easily crumpled need not be pressed after coming out of this chamber."

—Beth Breva

"Ball pen or ink that fades or vanishes after some time. So that if you want to write a secret lover a love letter, this can no longer be read by 'unauthorized' eyes after she has read it."

—Din Abdul

"A cupid umbrella—designed for lovers or would-be lovers. Its panels should be long and droop very low, so that the couple using it is literally 'imprisoned' inside and forced to stay close together."

—Art Mangabat

"Would anyone be able to invent a do-it-all laundry machine? One would put dirty clothes into it, click a button or two, wait 30 minutes, and get out laundry that has been washed, dried, and pressed.

"A Nobel Prize award for the inventor of this dream machine! It will make a difference in the quality of life of housewives and housebands, don't you think?"

—Claire Esteban

"This is what I would like to see in the market: a jug-like device that converts ordinary tap water into mineral water. A friend has one, with a German brand, and I have since wanted one for my own use."

—Lorie Sandoval

(Note: Generating, screening and selecting business ideas is only one of the modules featured in the Serdef and UP ISSI's "Start Your Own Business" training. For more information, please call 926-6316; 928-7070 to 79.)

Post-entry audit power of the Bureau of Customs

BY MA. LOUELLA M. ARANAS
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

AS A signatory to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1994 and a member of the World Trade Organization, the Philippines adopted the Transaction Value (TV) system of assessing customs duties and taxes on imported goods upon the effectivity of Republic Act No. 8181 on Jan. 1, 2000.

Under the TV system, the cost component of imported goods is the price actually paid or payable for the goods when sold for export to the Philippines.

Additionally, other elements are considered in determining the dutiable value of imported goods, insofar as these are incurred by the buyer but not included in the price actually paid or payable for the imported goods.

These include, among others, commissions and brokerage fees (except buying commissions), assists, royalties and license fees that the buyer must pay as a condition to the sale of goods to the buyer, cost of containers and packing and insurance.

The TV system also allows the use of alternative value references, such as the TV of identical or similar goods, deductive value, computed value and fallback value.

These value references are applied in hierarchical order, which means, for instance, that the deductive value may only be used if the TV itself of identical or similar goods cannot be determined.

Controversies are bound to arise particularly on the matter of whether all the elements of the TV have been accurately considered in the valuation of imported goods or whether there is enough justification for the resort to the use of the alternative value references.

This scenario has underscored the need to expand the powers of the Bureau of Customs to enable it to respond to the challenges brought about by the adoption of a new and untested valuation system in the Philippines.

RA 9135

RA 9135 amends certain provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines and inserts new sections to the said law.

The amendments to the new law seek to clarify the components of TV and the use of alternative value references. Penalties of fine and/or imprisonment have also been imposed for the following: (1) failure or negligence to pay the correct customs duties according to the three degrees of culpability; and (2) failure to keep importation record and give full access to customs officers.

The new law also grants the government the right to compulsory acquisition, which refers to the right to acquire questioned imported goods for a price equal to the declared customs value plus customs duties already paid thereon. This is resorted to when there is a need to protect government revenues against gross undervaluation of imported goods.

More importantly, RA 9135 vests post-entry audit power in the BOC.

This power refers to the authority of the BOC to examine records of importation, such as books of accounts, business and computer systems and all customs commercial data in order to verify the accuracy of the transaction value declared by the importers/customs broker on the import entry. The import entry refers to the written declaration of the valuation and the classification of imported goods and the computation of the duties and taxes on the importation.

Examination of records

Having defined the post-entry audit powers of the BOC, it is important to note the provisions of the new law pursuant to which such powers shall be exercised.

As a rule, the importer/customs broker shall allow any customs officer authorized by the BOC to enter during office hours any premises or place where the importation records are kept to conduct audit examination of those records in relation to specific transactions or to the adequacy and integrity of the manual or electronic system or systems by which such records are created and stored.

For this purpose, the authorized customs officer shall have full and free access to all books, records and documents necessary or relevant for the purpose of collecting the proper duties and taxes.

In addition, the authorized customs officer may make copies of, or take extracts from any such documents. A copy of any such document certified by or on behalf of the importer/broker is admissible in evidence in all courts as it were the original.

The post-entry audit power given to the BOC shall be exercised on a selective basis.

When articles have been entered and passed free of duty or final adjustments of duties made, such entry and passage free of duty or settlement of duties will be final and conclusive upon the expiration of three years from the date of the final payment of duties.

This rule is subject to the condition that there is no fraud or protest or compliance audit, and the liquidation is not merely tentative.

The firms to be audited shall be selected on the basis of the following criteria: (1) relative magnitude of customs revenue from the firm; (2) the rates of duties of the firm's imports; (3) the compliance tract records of the firm; and (4) an assessment to the risk of revenue of the firm's importation activities.

Other cases where an audit may be conducted are when errors in the import declaration are detected and when firms voluntarily request to be audited, subject to the approval of the commissioner of customs.

It is worthy to note that while the grant of post-audit powers to the BOC seems to affect only the importers, the new law specifically authorizes an audit into the records of brokers to validate audits of their importer clients and/or fill information gaps revealed during the audit of an importer.

Any person who, after being subjected to post-entry audit and examination, is found to have incurred deficiencies in duties and taxes paid for imported goods, shall be penalized according to three degrees of culpability as follows:

(a) Negligence—When the deficiency results from an offender's failure, through an act or acts of omission or commission, to exercise reasonable care and competence to ensure that a statement made is correct, it shall be determined to be negligent and punishable by a fine equivalent to not less than one-half but not more than two times the revenue loss.

(b) Gross negligence—When a deficiency results from an act or acts of omission or commission done with actual knowledge or wanton disregard for the relevant facts and with indifference to or disregard for the offender's obligation under the statute, it shall be determined to be grossly negligent and punishable by a fine equivalent to not less than 2 1/2 but not more than four times the revenue loss.

(c) Fraud—When the material false statement or act in connection with the transaction was committed or omitted knowingly, voluntarily and intentionally, as established by clear and convincing evidence, it shall be determined to be fraudulent and be punishable by a fine equivalent to not less than five times but not more than eight times the revenue loss and imprisonment of not less than two years but not more than eight years. *(For comments and questions, please e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen.com.)*

Selling big via small packages

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MARKETING STRATEGY

FIRST there was the Uniwide warehouse clubs that sold a wide range of local goods then came Makro B.V. that was exclusive to members and sold items in bulk. Newcomer to the Philippines, S&R Price Inc., strives to take the best practices of its predecessors to cater to the large Filipino market looking for low-priced but high-quality imported and local goods.

S&R, for instance, also sells a wide range of goods produced by local manufacturers but it is also a members-only outfit to provide more value to its customers. But unlike Makro that sells its items in big boxes or packs, it sells its items in smaller quantities to help budding entrepreneurs operating Mom and Pop stores.

"By selling our items in smaller packs of say two dozens of each kind, a small operator can buy different items from his capital compared to others that sell items in bigger bulks. In this way, they can already have a well-stocked store with a smaller capital," Benjamin M. Wood, S&R vice president for Asia, tells the INQUIRER.

S&R has also made the extra effort to put in the unit price for each item to make it easier for the prospective businessman to compute his possible gain or to compare the price with other stores.

The Philippine operations of the S&R store also adapted to the Filipino culture of patronizing imported items. The Philippines has been noted, for instance, for having duty free stores that sell more to arriving—rather than departing—tourists or travelers.

For these buyers, S&R has brought in a unique selection of imported items from toiletries to pillows and to small appliances, some of which cannot be found in other supermarkets or department stores.

"We are a wholesaler and we also have items that are similar to those that you can find in big department stores. We cater after all to two types of customers—businessmen and homemakers," Wood explains.

S&R PRICE
Bakery

BENJAMIN M. Wood, S&R Price Membership Shopping vice president, Asia operations.

The businessmen are attracted to S&R's different merchandise and low prices while the homemakers gravitate to S&R's fresh food section and the bakery. S&R prides itself in baking its own bread and in roasting its own chicken. Its fresh food section also includes Australian beef flown straight from the land down under.

"We offer something for all our members. What is important is that we keep prices low and maintain our high quality standards," Wood says.

S&R's philosophy was laid down by Sol and Robert Price who developed the membership-merchandising concept in 1976. They founded Price Club in 1976 where member-customers were provided high-volume, low-cost operations to obtain the best possible prices on a wide array of merchandise.

Close to 30 years since the first Price Smart was opened in the United States, S&R continues to live up to the philosophy of Sol and Robert Price. Simply stated, it is to sell the right merchandise, in the right place, at the right time, in the right quantity, in the right condition at the right price.

Selling the right merchandise, Wood says, means continuously reviewing the product mix to ensure that the products match the market. S&R also looks to put up the stores in areas where the rent is not too high so as not to affect prices.

Providing goods at the right time and the right quantity means using the latest in technology to track inventory levels so that the right items go to the store in time for that next customer. Merchandise is also checked carefully to make sure that nothing is broken, soiled or damaged.

Last but not least, S&R strives to keep prices as low as possible. S&R does this through volume buying directly from the manufacturers. This cuts through the layers of distributors and middlemen that jack up the prices of products.

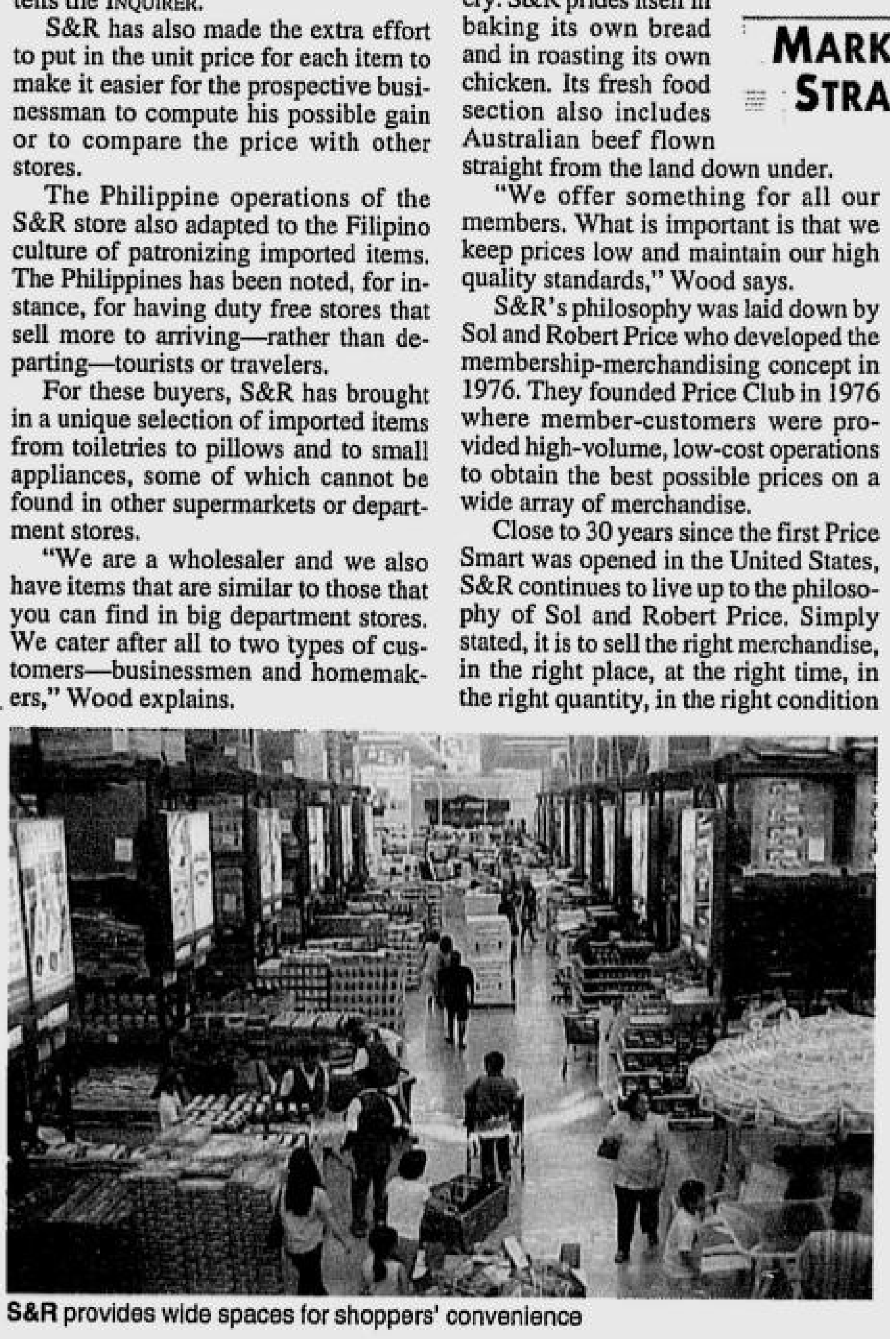
"We have a streamlined distribution system and we merchandise the products ourselves. We also run on a specific margin system because we want the lowest possible prices for our members," Wood stresses.

S&R wants to keep prices as low as possible that it restricts its advertisements to a few broadsheets and prefers to spread news about the store via word-of-mouth from happy customers.

S&R opened its doors to the public last May and it now has 55,000 members. There are two kinds of members. Diamond cardholders pay P1,200 for the principal card and P600 for an extension card.

Business members, on the other hand, get two membership cards for P1,500 and they can get four more extension cards at P600 each.

The Philippine operations is the first S&R store in Asia. Wood explains that S&R decided to launch the Asian operations here following the passage of the retail liberalization law and the huge market of people looking for value for their hard-earned money.



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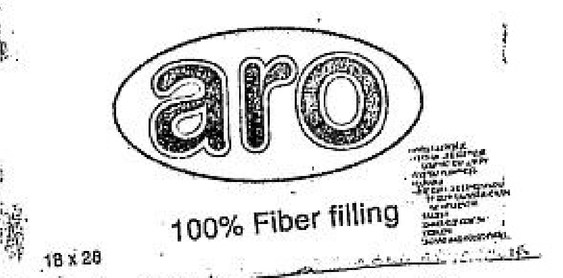

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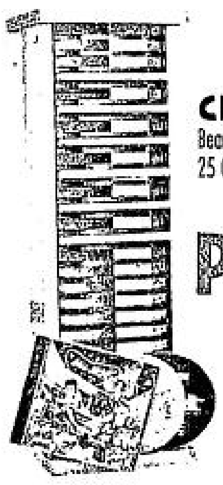

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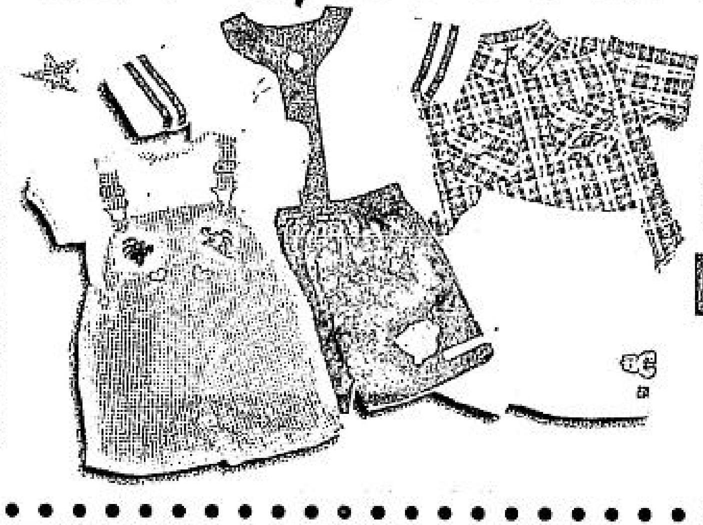

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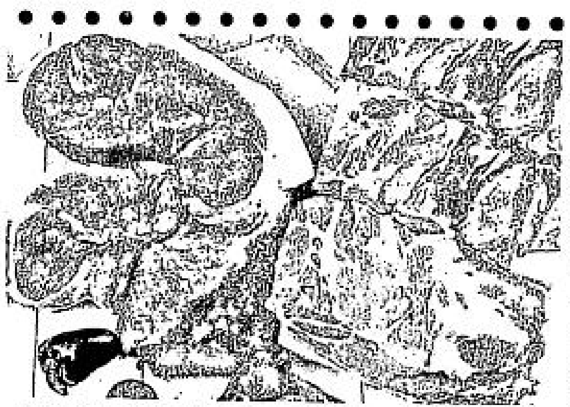

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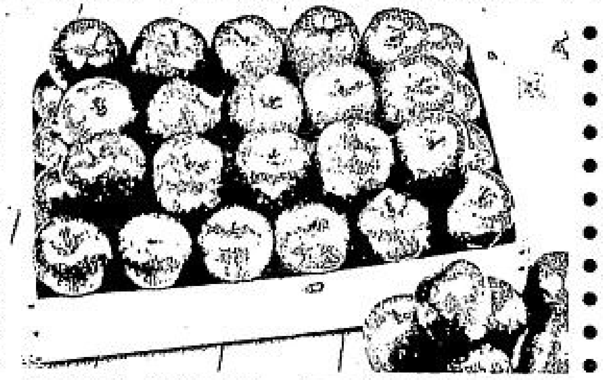

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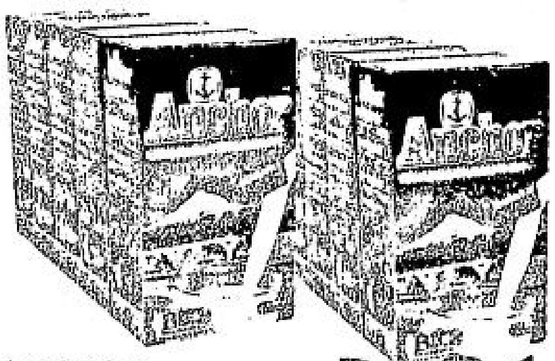

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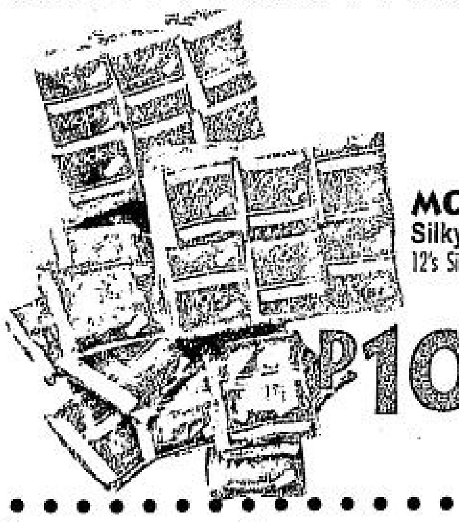

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

Gaupo named Shanghai Tang chief designer

It's confirmed. He comes from a breed of Filipino designers who work on their clothes, more than their publicity

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WE had a really feel-good dinner last Monday, good for both the company and news. We got together with designer friends **Lulu Tan Gan, Mike de la Rosa, Efren Ocampo, Tonichi Nocum** because **Cesar Gaupo** was briefly in town and we wanted to get the story from the man himself.

The good news is, Cesar's appointment as chief designer of Shanghai Tang has been confirmed by the board of this luxury brand with stores in Hong Kong and New York. Cesar will be designing lines of this transcontinental brand, from clothes to accessories, including the kids' line.

That is a big deal. Cesar brings honor to Filipino fashion design—a field that has always been long on talent and staying power but short on government, industry and market support. After **Roy Gonzales**, who was designer of **Jean Patou** in Paris in the '70s, Cesar is only the second Filipino designer to head the design staff of an international fashion line.

His staff is much younger than he (sorry, Cesar, I have to say it) and composed of graduates from leading fashion schools abroad, notably St. Martin's (its graduates include **Stella McCartney** and **Alexander McQueen**), but who don't have his experience in the rough-and-tumble world of retail and design.

Showing in NYC

As a pioneer at SM and a veteran of Manila and Asean fashion shows, Cesar has long paid his dues to his industry and profession. He very well knows the meaning of struggle and competition, from the '70s when Manila had its golden years of fashion design and the designers developed a well-heeled and loyal market, down to the '80s and '90s when the field felt the onslaught

GAUPO/ p.C5

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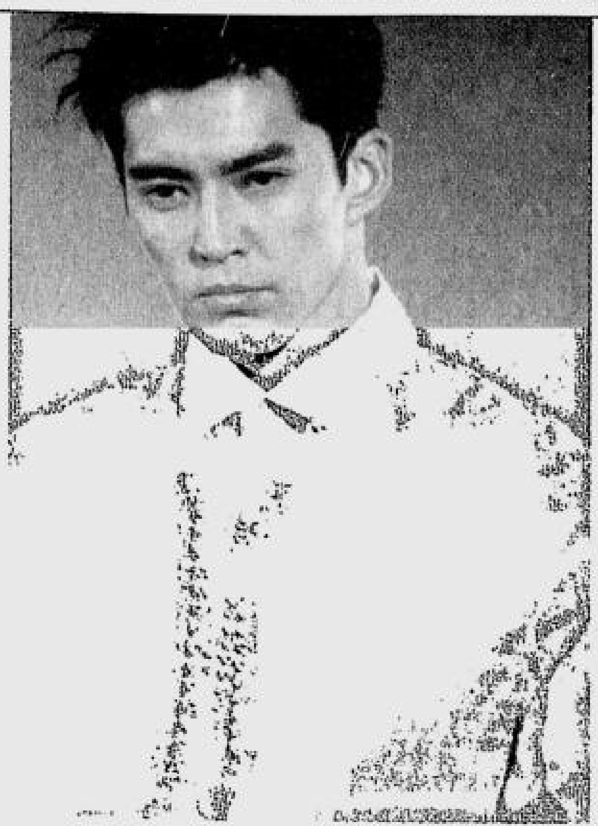
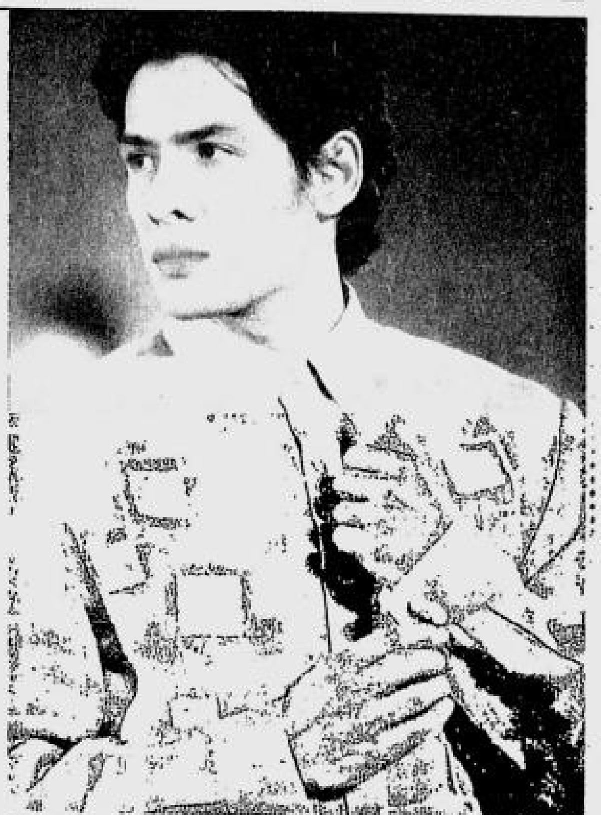
ARCY Gayatin's pale yellow stretch dress worn with a steel and *sinamay* necklace with South Sea pearls



JEWELMER'S lariat goes with the *pinukpok barong* by Gayatin.

CALLADO gown goes with floral-designed pearl strand.



CHAMPAGNE South Sea pearl cuff links on Goulbourn's silk blend *barong*

The inner glow of Philippine pearls

By Marge C. Enriquez

WHILE other businesses are losing confidence due to the critical times, the owners of Jewelmer, producers of South Sea pearls, remain steadfast and proud of their service. Although their product may be considered "nonessential," Manuel Cojuangco, Jewelmer's president, and his longtime partner and managing director, Jacques Branellec, are offering something that is more priceless—managing a business based on values and promoting a positive image of the Philippines.

"We believe the pearl is the most valuable, natural gem in the Philippines. It's the most unique. It's a living gem that is born out of a living creature which has been nurtured by a combination of human risk taking, care, love, respect for the living product and technology. We work in a different philosophy. We don't produce a pearl to make money out of it. More often than not, you lose money in the pearl business. You do this kind of activity because you have faith in what you do. It's adding value to the country," says Branellec.

Cojuangco underscores, "When you are in this business, it's not a get-rich-quick scheme. You have to be committed. The production cycles are long. You ride the valleys and troughs.".

Coping

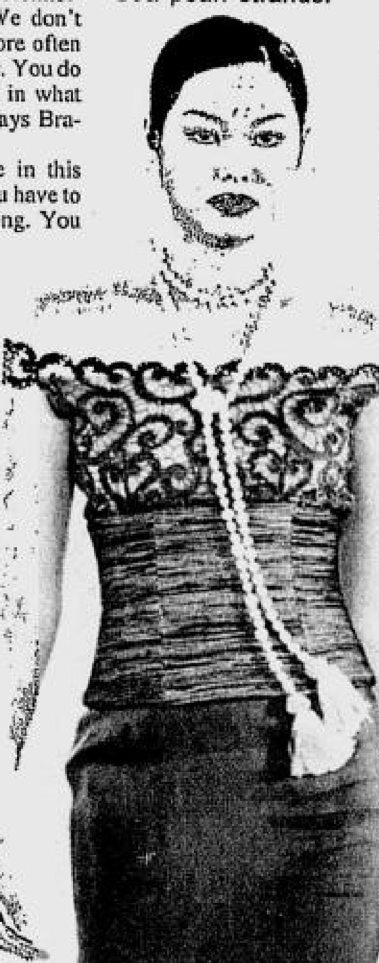
Asked how the company is coping with the political and economic crisis in the world, Branellec replies, "What crisis? We don't think that way. We pray to avoid typhoons. We deal with might of nature, red tide and catastrophe. We don't focus on man-made events. Our vision is not what's happening outside. If we were to focus on the negative, we would never have started this business. We focus on doing right and what is good for the country and how our work uplifts the people. In many jewelry shows, we are the only Philippine company here. For 22 years, we have been acting as ambassador and have been using our own resources to project a better image of the country. As long as we do that, no matter what prophet of doom will say, we shall continue. Modesty aside, I feel we have contributed in making a different perception of the Filipino."

For nearly two decades, Jewelmer has been participating in the Hong Kong Jewelry and Watch Trade Fair. A fortnight ago, Jewelmer presented its finest pearls made especially for the fashion show featuring Rajo Laurel, Arcy Gayatin and Katrina Goulbourn at the Hong Kong Exhibition Center. Titled "The Ultimate Orient: Philippine South Sea Pearls," the show was interspersed with dances from the Bayanihan.

Branellec says the pearls for the fashion show come in all sizes and colors. "They come up with pieces that are affordable. It's not easy to extract attention on a small piece of jewelry. We use volume and composition without being too bulky so people can appreciate the pearls from afar. After the show they become a collector's item or they are sold," he says.

MUSLIM bridal ensemble is topped by a headpiece of South Sea pearl strands.

FLORAL headpiece with silver and white South Sea pearls complements Gayatin's gown.



GOULBOURN'S modern *callado* and silk is enhanced by this opera-length South Sea pearl strand with matching bracelet

An optimist, Branellec believes in the high value of the South Sea pearls that are cultivated in Palawan farms.

"The competitiveness of a Philippine product survives even in difficult times," explains Branellec. He says the Philippine pearl's selling point is its "orient" or inner glow. It is born out of the refraction of light at it goes through layers of aragonite crystal from the core through the top, giving it the best optical effect.

"The Philippine pearl smiles at you. There's fire and gold and pink hues silvery and roseate you don't find in pearls from other countries," says Branellec.

Cojuangco adds, "If you want to showcase your achievement in terms of monetary expression, Van Cleef & Arpels would be a better brand than Jewelmer. We give the people good value for the quality of materials we use and quality of our pearls. Some of our clients can afford to go to Hong Kong and Europe to buy jewelry. They can compare the difference between theirs and ours. If they buy from us, I take that as a positive sign."

National gem

A huge percentage of Jewelmer's business goes to such export markets as Japan, Europe and the US. Fine jewelry makes up a small percentage that caters mostly to the domestic market.

Contrary to its elitist image, Jewelmer caters to a broad clientele, starting with the yuppies.

"When they realize the pride of owning a national gem, everybody wants to have the chance to wear one. Our strategy is to make sure that our products are of high quality and are acceptable to every woman in the Philippines," says Branellec.

While other jewelers depend on engagement and wedding rings for their bread-and-butter, Branellec says pendants are the bestsellers.

"The advantage of a single pearl is that it serves as a starter, especially for someone on a limited budget. It becomes a center of focus. The pearl is unique and it comes from your own country. It's more of a self-identity symbol. A beautiful pendant is not necessarily expensive. It's very dressy yet it's a product of nature, and it adorns a woman a natural product."

Conservative spending

Despite the Philippine pearl's unique selling points, the demand has slumped due to the uncertainty of the times. Cojuangco says Jewelmer has never experienced a bad year since it was established in 1979. Despite the fact that the country had experienced earthquakes, people power, coup attempts and typhoons, their business never had a bad time.

"There would be glitches for a month. But on a year-to-year basis, no way. In fact, you'd get contrary behavior," he says. When the exchange rate jacked up, sales increased as customers perceived their value to increase over time.

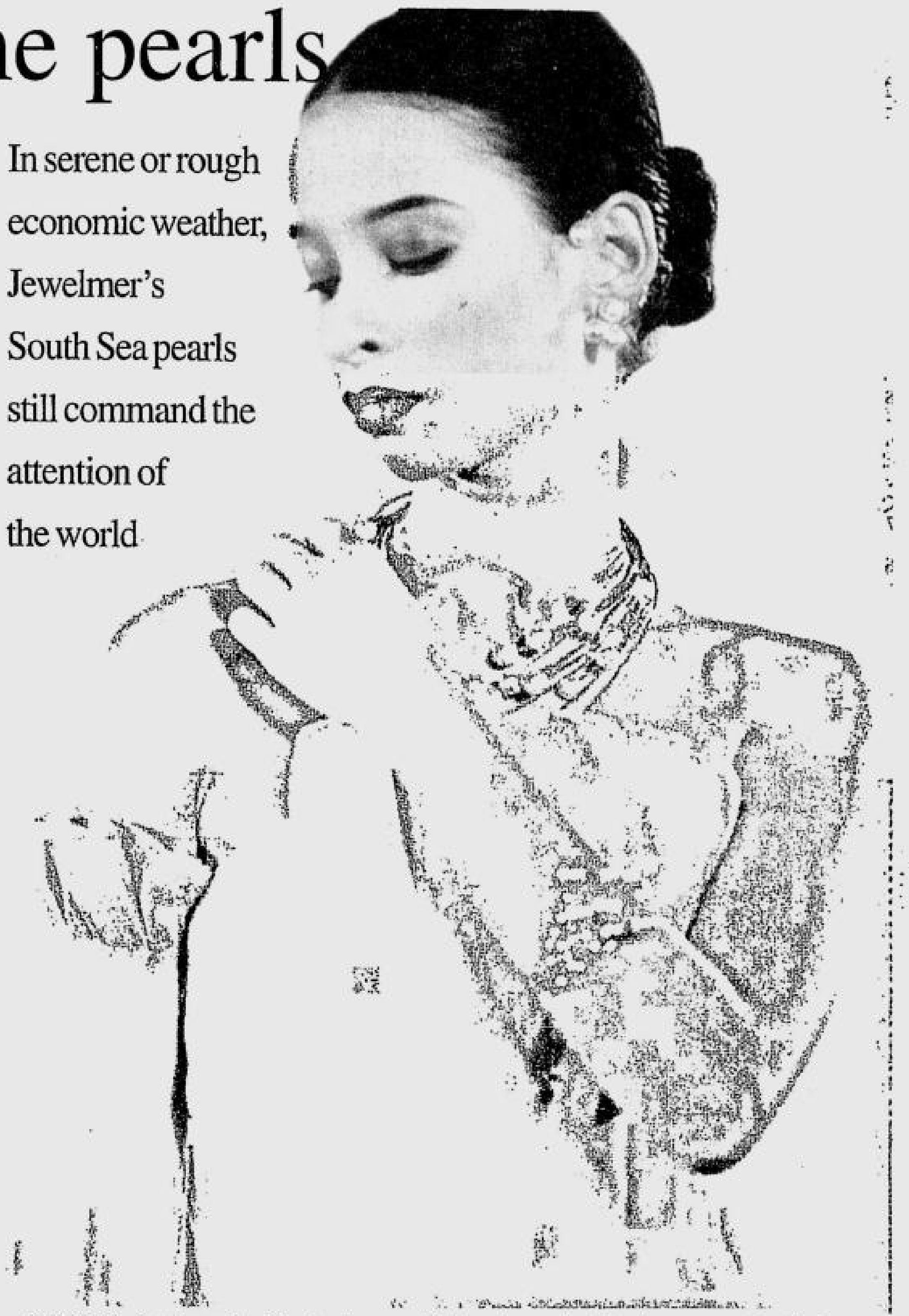
Now that people feel as if the sword of Damocles is on top of their heads, customers are more conservative about spending their money, especially on non-essential goods.

"Let's say they would spend $6,000 for a major item, now they'd spend something like $3,000. People can't escape economic conditions as well as cultural and political realities," says Cojuangco.

"The rest is explained by economic conditions and the way people perceive the stability around them. If they feel secure and the atmosphere is positive, people dress accordingly. In times like these occasions for wearing something dressier won't be that often," he says.

"The psychological impact is greater. The general confidence of trade has been lower. The fundamental change is not so much in economy but more on minds of the people. If everybody concentrates on what s/he is doing, then they will overcome difficult times," adds Branellec.

In serene or rough economic weather, Jewelmer's South Sea pearls still command the attention of the world



KATRINA Goulbourn's silk strapless outfit is enhanced with champagne South Sea pearls on 18k gold necklace with matching bracelets and earrings.

Adding value

Cojuangco notes that the drop in sales is "substantial but we're still doing okay."

"We can never escape from the crisis that's affecting the whole of Asia. Now it's a world phenomenon," says Cojuangco.

He also cites the quirk of capitalism also affects sales. "You're dealing with something hard to define as far as intrinsic values are concerned. There's this probable feeling that it might be going out of fashion. The economies of different countries won't be okay. People in the trade have that fear that whatever the product they are dealing with will not be in fashion for the coming year."

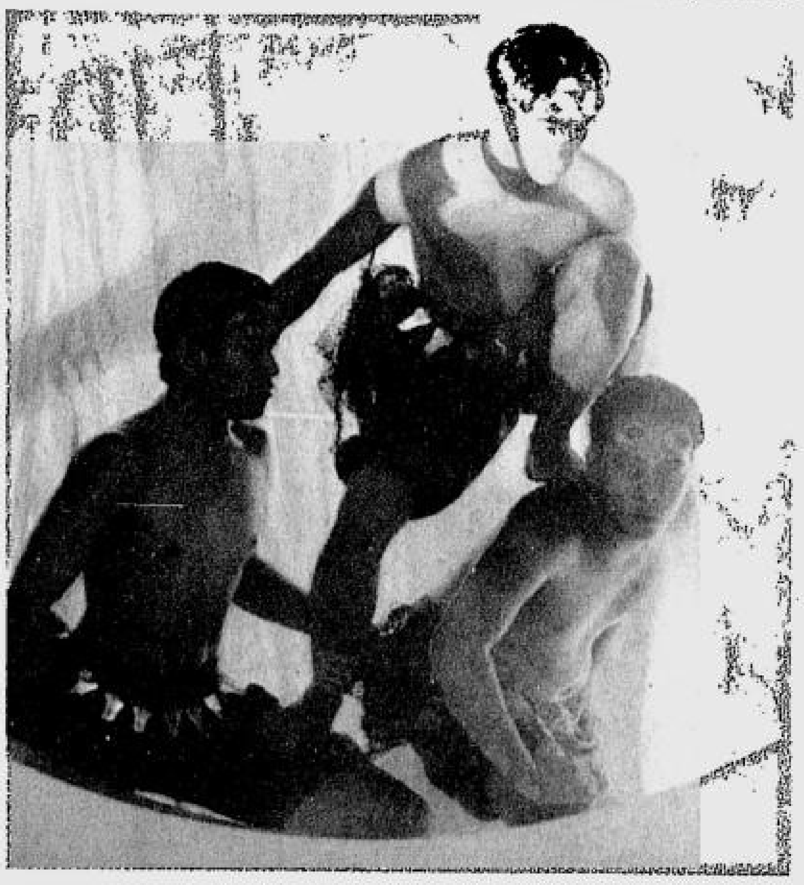
Jewelmer's challenge to double its efforts in improving quality to give more value to clients, wholesalers or individuals for the least cost. This also implies lower profit margins. The other challenge is for the owners to keep their commitment to their some 900 employees.

"We don't want to lay them off. We know the families are relying on us."

Cojuangco says Jewelmer will retain its sales target. "To maintain would be a victory. There are three ways of managing costs. One is to increase sales, second is to bring down your costs or both. We are trying to do both so we can to maintain the standard of living of our work force."

Branellec believes that a positive and visionary outlook is needed to ride through the times.

"If you work for the short-term vision, you get affected by the day-to-day events," says Branellec. He says the company works on these precepts: "Believe in what you do, what you do is right, contribute to betterment of employees and project a better image of the Philippines. No event manmade or natural calamities can stop this determination. We have never stopped our best efforts."



BAYANIHAN Dance company interprets the Tausog folk dance of the pearl divers.

SOUTH Sea pearl scarf accentuates Rajo Laurel's Muslim-inspired *barong*.

DANCER wears a Jewelmer pearl tiara as she dances the *pangalay*, the dance from Sulu.

CLASS 1951 graduates of the Philippine Normal College (now Philippine Normal University) recently celebrated their golden jubilee concurrently with the centennial jubilee of their alma mater. Shown above during the whole-day celebrations are the officers and coordinators of Class '51, with PNU president lawyer Lilia S. Garcia (sixth from left): Priscilla Gonzalez-Avenir, Virsely Mendoza-de la Cruz, Tita Gopez-Timbol, Angie Diaz, Adoracion Mariano-Acuna, Flor Banag-Santarin, West Africa consul Luningning Rebong Gonzales and Teresa Roman-Cordero.

Three-day sale at Araneta Center

GOINGS-ON

ARANETA Center ushers in the festive mood of the holiday season through its "Big 3-Day Centerwide Sale" starting today until Oct. 7, with up to 60-percent discount on selected items. Shopaholics are assured of value for their money at the participating stores—Ali Mall, Araneta Coliseum Arcade, Aurora Arcade, Auto Centro, Cinderella, Fairmart, Farmers Garden, Farmers Plaza, Fiesta Carnival Arcade, Isetann Department Store, COD, Marikina Shoe Expo, Mercury Drug, National Bookstore, Plaza Fair, Quezon Arcade, Rustan Superstore and SM Department. Store hours are at 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Friday and Saturday) and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (Sunday.)

EXHIBIT. Sta. Isabel College holds an art exhibit dubbed "Image Fusion" until Oct.11, at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Covered Court.

ANIMAL BLESSING. In celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi and World Animal Day on Oct. 4, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society is sponsoring an Animal Blessing Day on Oct. 7 at the following churches: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway Centrum, New Manila, QC, 12 nn; Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, at 3 p.m. Call 724-6395/1986.

REUNION. High School Batch '81 of Paco Catholic School will hold a reunion on Dec. 1 at the Pan Pacific Hotel. Call Gemma Pamen-Espena at 563-9932 or (0919) 853-7487, Joey Castro at (0917) 810-4909 or Melanie Alcid at (0917) 815-4475.

BOOK LAUNCH. The launching of "Footprints of a Pilgrim People: The Socio-Pastoral Apostolate of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters in the Philippines" will be held on Oct. 25, 10 a.m. at St Scholastica's Priory House Inner Garden, 2560 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila.

EXHIBIT. "Days of Innocence," a back-to-back exhibition of canvases by Fatima Antonio and brass sculptures by Michael Cacnio was moved to Oct. 12, 6 p.m. The exhibit will run until Oct. 27 at Gallery Nine, Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati.

SEMINAR. Hotel Institute Montreux (HIM), a prestigious hotel management school in Switzerland with students from all over the world, invites interested students, graduates and parents to a free two-hour seminar presentation and career counseling at the Mandarin Oriental, Makati City, on Oct. 6, 2 p.m. The seminar aims to provide an orientation on hotel management education in Switzerland, particularly at HIM. Call (0917) 483-6518 or (0917) 409-8345.

LECTURE. Boston-based yoga teacher Lucia Misa is in Manila to conduct a workshop on Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra), 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC. Call 434-5381.

WORKSHOP. The Corporate Mind and the Josephine Gomez Clinic for Voice Therapy and Rehabilitation will present the 2001 Edition of the Voice Image seminar-workshop at the Summit Lounge, Manila Galleria Suites on Oct.7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 687-7898.

PRESENTATION. Teatro Josefino of St. Joseph's College is reviving its theatrical tradition spawned by Zeneida Amador in the '70s via its inaugural production of Marcelino Agana Jr.'s "New Yorker in Tondo" and Rene Villanueva's "Kumbersasyon," tomorrow, 2 p.m. at the institution's Mater Dei Auditorium on E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC.

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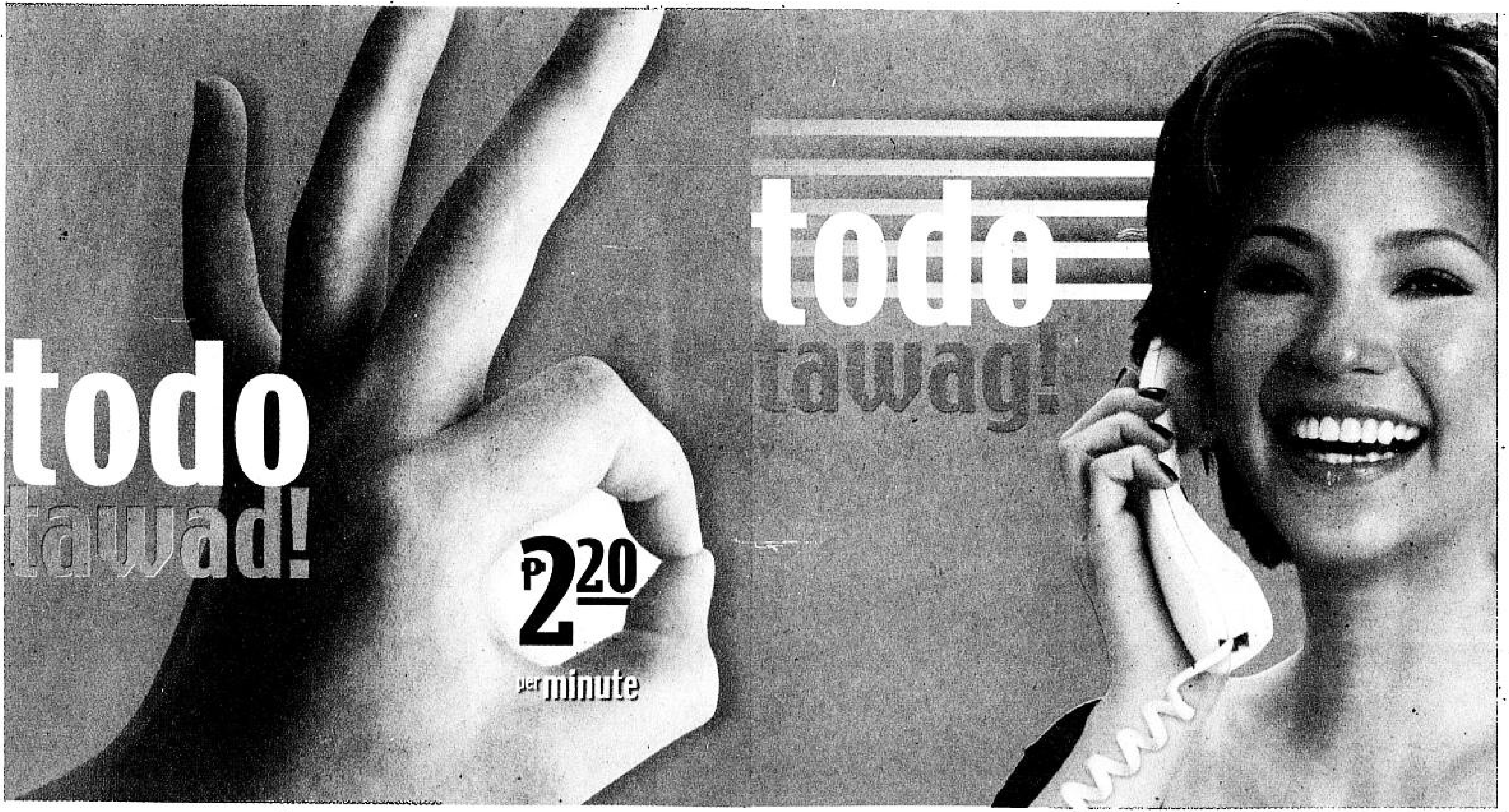

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FRONT ROW VIPS. Meldy and Tingting Cojuangco

DORIS' DAY. Doris Ho and Anton Mendoza

PLATINUM VAULT. Nina and Anton Huang

Rajo's gung-ho fashion

TEXT AND PHOTOS TIM YAP

VISIONAIRE'S James Kaliardos once said, "Clothes are the strongest performative ritual elements we have in society now." On that thought, Rajo Laurel's "Rajo 01" gala show was sheer pomp.

The ramp became Rajo's proscenium as one by one, models in sexy pouf ensembles with ruffles, beads and frou frou came marching in. A video presentation with "It" girl Sarah Meier showed the veejay in an old house, going up and down the stairs, seemingly trapped. She smoked a cigarette and found a way to go up the balcony, where she saw the horizon, the sun setting—the day was about to end, but another one was coming up. She lit a firecracker and celebrated.

"01" is flashed onscreen. "01" meaning "on his own," "the first collection," "on top"—it's Rajo's way of focusing on what he wants to say. "It's not about the competition, but how I'm running the race," he would always tell me.

Raw

From the clothes exhibited by his team (composed of sister-producer Venisse Laurel, Ariel Lozada, Michael Salientes and Reret Bonoan) to the video and soundtrack, there was raw and edgy sensibility and romanticism. Nostalgia was prevalent in his music score. Think "Jane Fonda's Exercise Regimen" and "Lovingly Yours" (the '80s TV show) theme to mellow, chill house, beats interspersed with pumping techno and garage. It was as if we are going through an excursion of Rajo's life from childhood to present.

And it was as much a show offstage as it was onstage. Before the show, socialites and industry leaders, all garbed in their gala best, filled the cocktail area. At Paradigm Salon, makeup wiz Henri Calayag's appointment book was brimming with names, from Claudia Bermudez to Grace Barbers. On both sides of the ramp, the front row was a feast yet to be matched. One side featured the troika of Doris Ho, über radiant and youthful in a red Rajo cheongsam, Tingting Cojuangco and Meldy Cojuangco, dames in classic black. Tina Maristela Ocampo was nearby in an alligator skin bustier.

The other side had Tessa Prieto Valdes, wearing a black-gray and green ensemble of bows and laces, all of which looked like it came from the show. Mons Romulo Tantoco was garbed in Victorian joie de toile, while the Puckett sisters Reyna and Audrey (who flew in from Hong Kong just to attend Rajo's show) were in vintage Rajo (of 10 years). They all wore Rajo Laurel—and the clothes didn't itch.

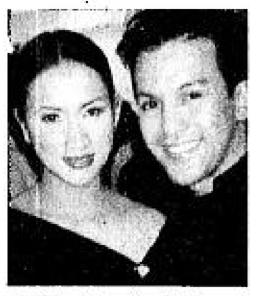
An after-party was hosted at Wherelse where white tents were set up with flowers and candles and overflowing martini to celebrate the success of the show.

"I'm leaving for Paris before the reviews come out," whispered Rajo on his way to the dance floor. "I have so much to thank for all this success."

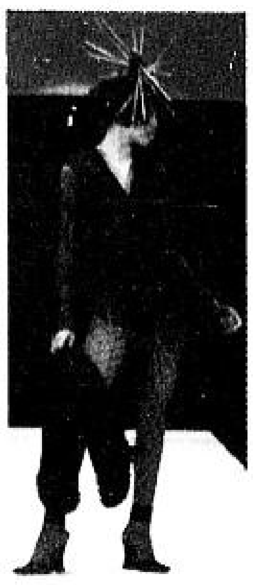
The title of the show, '01,' refers to the fashion designer's coming into his own. And how!

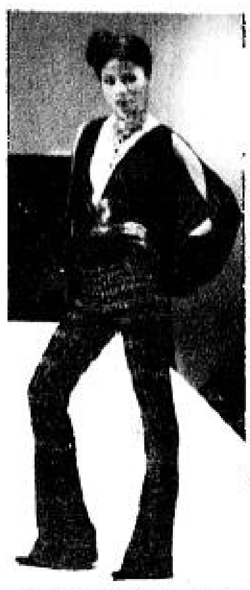
GLITTERY night for Claudia Bermudez

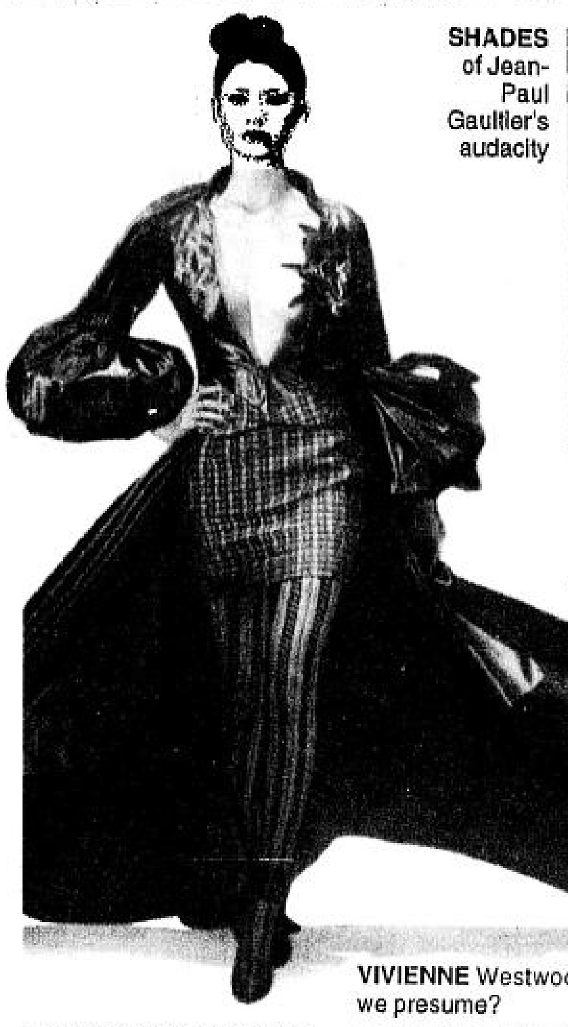
DIRECTOR'S CUT. Producer Joey Espino and protégé Ariel Lozada

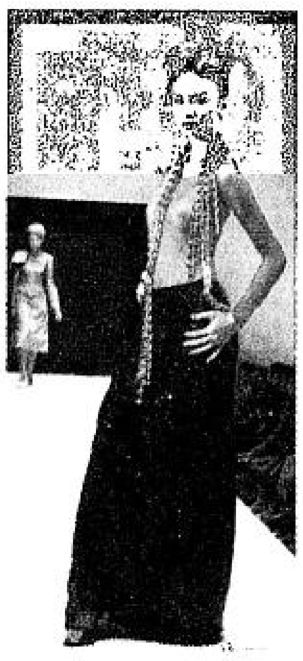

ALL in the family for Ayen and Franco Laurel

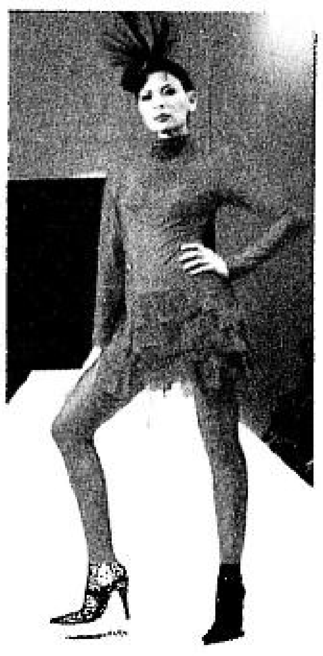
LIGHT AND SHADES. Nanette Medved-Po, Manny del Rosario and Anna Buenaventura

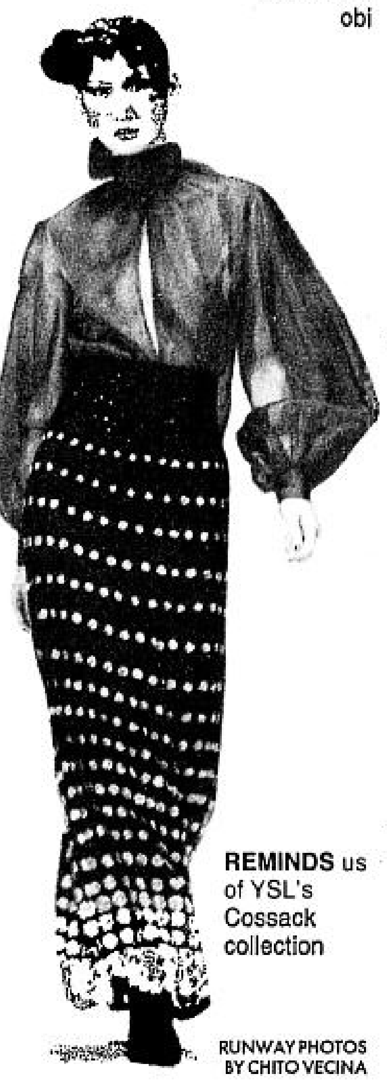

SHADES of Jean-Paul Gaultier's audacity


TAKE note of Rajo's trademark obi


VIVIENNE Westwood, we presume?


SEE-THROUGH à la YSL


INSPIRED by Tom Ford's Post-It note dress


REMINDS us of YSL's Cossack collection

RUNWAY PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

JOSEPHINE Knox after the show

THE PRODUCER. Rajo's sis Venisse Laurel with Mae Young at the Wherelse after-party

RED, black and white for Bianca Valerio

GOLDEN GLAM. Anton Barretto and Bea Valdes

RAJO'S FRONT ROW. Reyna and Audrey Puckett with Mons Tantoco

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Gaupo named Shanghai Tang chief designer

(From page C1)

of foreign brands and later, of cheap smuggled clothes and *tiangge* stuff. All this time, Cesar, like Lulu, Mike, Efren, Tonichi, never once gave up. Not even when it was so tempting to just close shop and give up on an uncertain industry climate and shifting market. As they say, what didn't kill you could only make you stronger.

To hear Cesar tell it, he didn't expect, much less plan, the Shanghai Tang job.

The opportunity came and he just did what he has done best all these years—design. Shanghai Tang's CEO, **John Aexel**, is married to a former Filipino model, **Mylah Javier**, who loves to wear Cesar's clothes, so the husband became familiar with his designs. After a parade of designers who didn't quite last, Shanghai Tang was ready for a new one. John knew right away that he had to meet Cesar.

Cesar gave his portfolio of designs and the Asian Fashion coffee-table book where he was featured with **Inno Sotto** and **Patis Tesoro**.

Cesar didn't take the job prospect seriously at first because he was too busy running his SM line. Although John was sold on him, the board had to see for themselves so Cesar was asked to design the Shanghai Tang line for the Hong Kong Fashion Week early this year—a task Cesar breezed through. The line, which bore Cesar's characteristic visual power and cutting-edge seductive look, provided the "newness" Shanghai Tang had been in dire need of. It stood out easily at the Fashion Week—for while the younger designers had the whimsy and innovation, Cesar showed both, plus expert construction and sure hand with fabrics.

This was followed by another test—the fashion week in New York last September. At Bryant Park, in a most competitive week of collections, Cesar shone again, catching the eye of New York TV and Italian Vogue which, right after the show, snapped up his clothes for a shoot. Cesar wound up his collection in New York on Sept. 10. The day before the terrorists struck, Cesar flew out of New York.

Getting the job

His next stop was the Shanghai Tang office in London where he, his works and that crucial Asian Fashion book were presented by John before the board. The decision was unanimous, leaving out other candidates from the world design capitals. The contract for the prestigious post was handed him.

Cesar joins Shanghai Tang at a crucial and exciting time in the life of this high-end brand. Shanghai Tang was founded by **David Tang**, the high-profile fashion and social figure in Hong Kong and New York who was known for his friendship with Princess **Diana**. Shanghai Tang was the toast of New York when it opened its store on Madison Avenue.

However, the hype didn't hold. David exited and the company was bought by Richmond, which owns the prestigious brands Lancel and Chloe, among others.

The new ownership breathed new life and provided aggressive direction to the brand.

Now it's back on the fashion forefront and is pinning its hopes on Cesar. Interestingly, Cesar has a relaxed attitude about all this. Boosting retail sales is nothing new to him. He said he felt not so much the pressure as the excitement over the limitless possibilities of design he could now experiment with given the vast resources at his disposal, particularly the fabrics. It's a far cry from the frustrations Filipino designers have felt all these years over the prohibitive costs and limited access to fabrics and material supply.

"I've never worked straight from 9 to 7 as I do now, and yet I don't feel tired. I feel very fulfilled and more excited each day," he told us.

CESAR Gaupo

Girding for 2002

He's preparing the 2002 Spring-Summer line and knows exactly the surprises he intends to pull. Decades of experience have prepared him for doing year-round collections.

"I'm inclined to prepare collections mainly for London and New York," he said, indicating that these fashion capitals were the audiences he longed to capture.

At the dinner, we all felt excited that Cesar had actually held a show at Bryant Park. "They didn't even know I'm Filipino. They presumed the name was Chinese," he said. At first he said he was actually ignored, until he set out to drape the clothes on the models then the photographers flocked around and snapped away. "*Nagulat sila* when they saw the designs."

Cesar is now based in Hong Kong and will fly to New York and London during collection season.

Our dinner was filled with laughter and reminiscing, but we knew that such dinners would now be rare because Cesar could not fly home as often as he wanted.

Cesar is one of the few designers I love to make fun of and get away doing it because of the long years we've shared in our careers.

Battle-proven soldiers

I remember that it was only last December when in Mike's house, we wondered if he, Mike and Lulu should throw in the towel already because retail was doing badly, and the smuggling of super-cheap clothes from China wasn't helping their cause any.

But we're approaching the holiday season again and I realized that these guys aren't even close to giving up. In fact, Lulu, Mike, Efren, Tonichi and I are even mulling good plans for Philippine fashion next year.

During that dinner I realized more than ever that these guys were battle-proven soldiers. They come from that generation of Filipino designers who have earned their laurels through good and bad times. They're not only deadset on their profession, they also have the discipline for it. They built their careers and market not on hype and press releases but on hard work, relentless study and commitment to self-improvement. They wail about the lack of fabrics and materials yet they seek ingenious ways to beat this handicap. They work first on their craft before the publicity.

This is what I miss in today's generation of designers who, in a way, have had it easy. While the generation of Cesar, Lulu, Inno, Mike, Efren, **Auggie Cordero** have had to build professional relationships with media through the years—one built on respect and knowledge-sharing. With today's generation, the fashion media are theirs for the taking, and the limelight readily awaits them even before they can master the task of constructing clothes, of producing the right proportion, of editing the look. We miss the hard work and hard study and, most of all, the integrity of craft in many of today's designers who go for the "shock effect" in their anything-goes, well-publicized collections.

In assuming that they're in the league of Cesar, Inno, Auggie, they prove only the aggression in running after power clientele. What they fail to prove is that enduring careers are built not on the hyping of talent, but on the integrity of it.

Even if the world outlook is grim, this October we're looking forward to seeing the collections of Inno Sotto and **Rhett Eala**, that unassuming young designer who's finally striking out on his own.

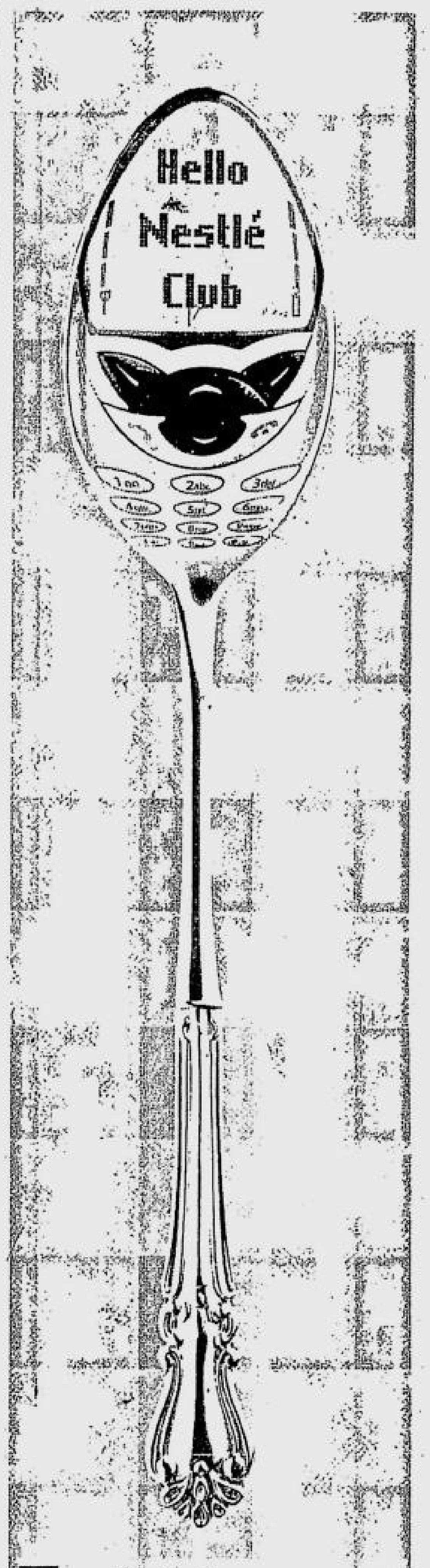
Terrorism

Fashion is adjusting to a world dampened by terrorism. According to the Women's Wear Daily that Auggie has lent me yet again, the Paris couture shows run Oct. 5-13 as scheduled but, as a Prada spokeswoman said, "We will be as low-key and professional as possible." **Giorgio Armani**, who was stranded in Manhattan during the terrorist strikes, offered his Milan runway theater for use by American designers who may want to show during the Milan collections. They're speculating if a major Paris designer would stick to the Middle Eastern theme in his collection.

Givenchy designer **Julien Macdonald** admitted that the American sales of their couture business might be affected seriously by the New York disaster for it is this time of year when its sales team flies the collection to the American market in New York, which accounts for 50 percent of the business.

Ferragamo cancelled the gala evening set for Sept. 20 at the Guggenheim in Venice to mark the opening of its store there. In Paris, MAC and Tag Heuer cancelled their September events. In New York, Gap and Banana Republic in the World Trade Center were able to evacuate their staffs safely. Neiman Marcus postponed the launch of its 75th anniversary Christmas Book. Macy's Herald Square, the world's largest store, stayed open until 4 p.m. of that fateful Tuesday, upon the request of the city government to shelter stranded people.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph



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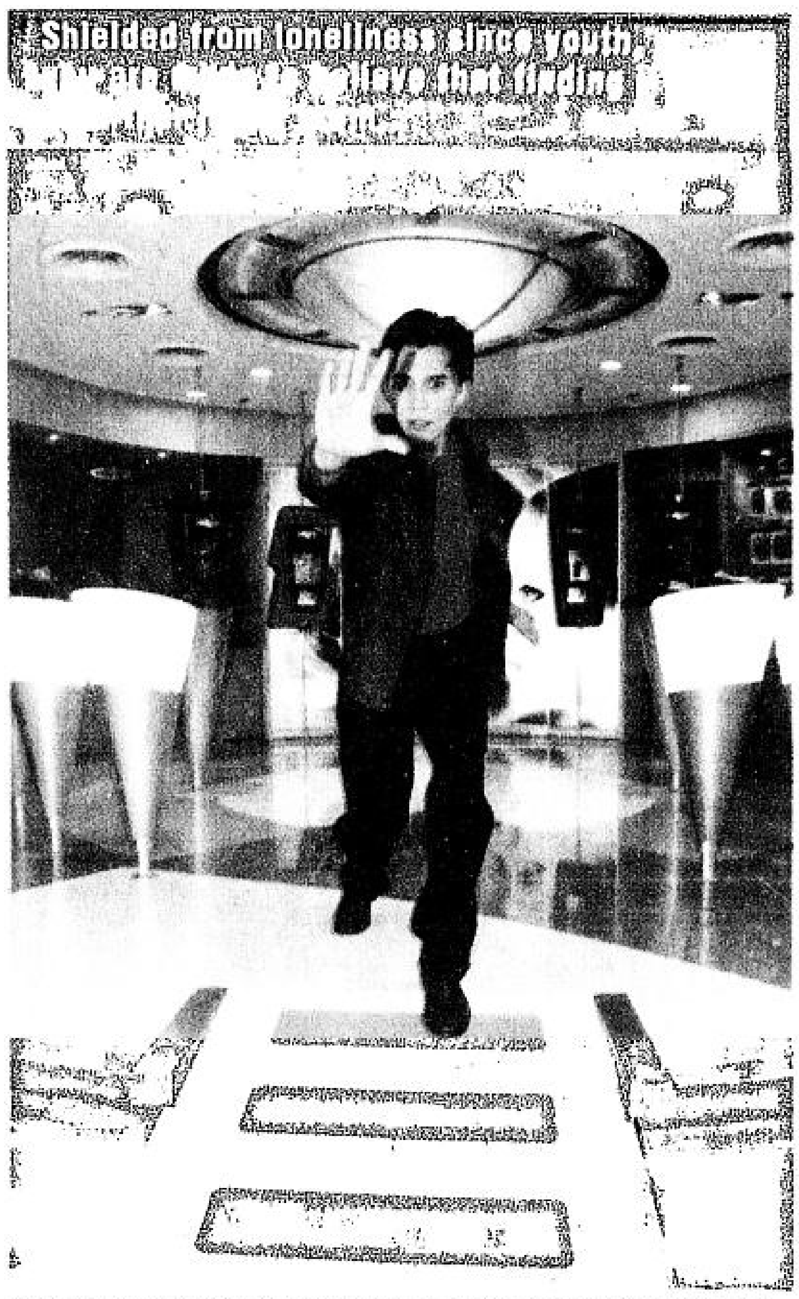
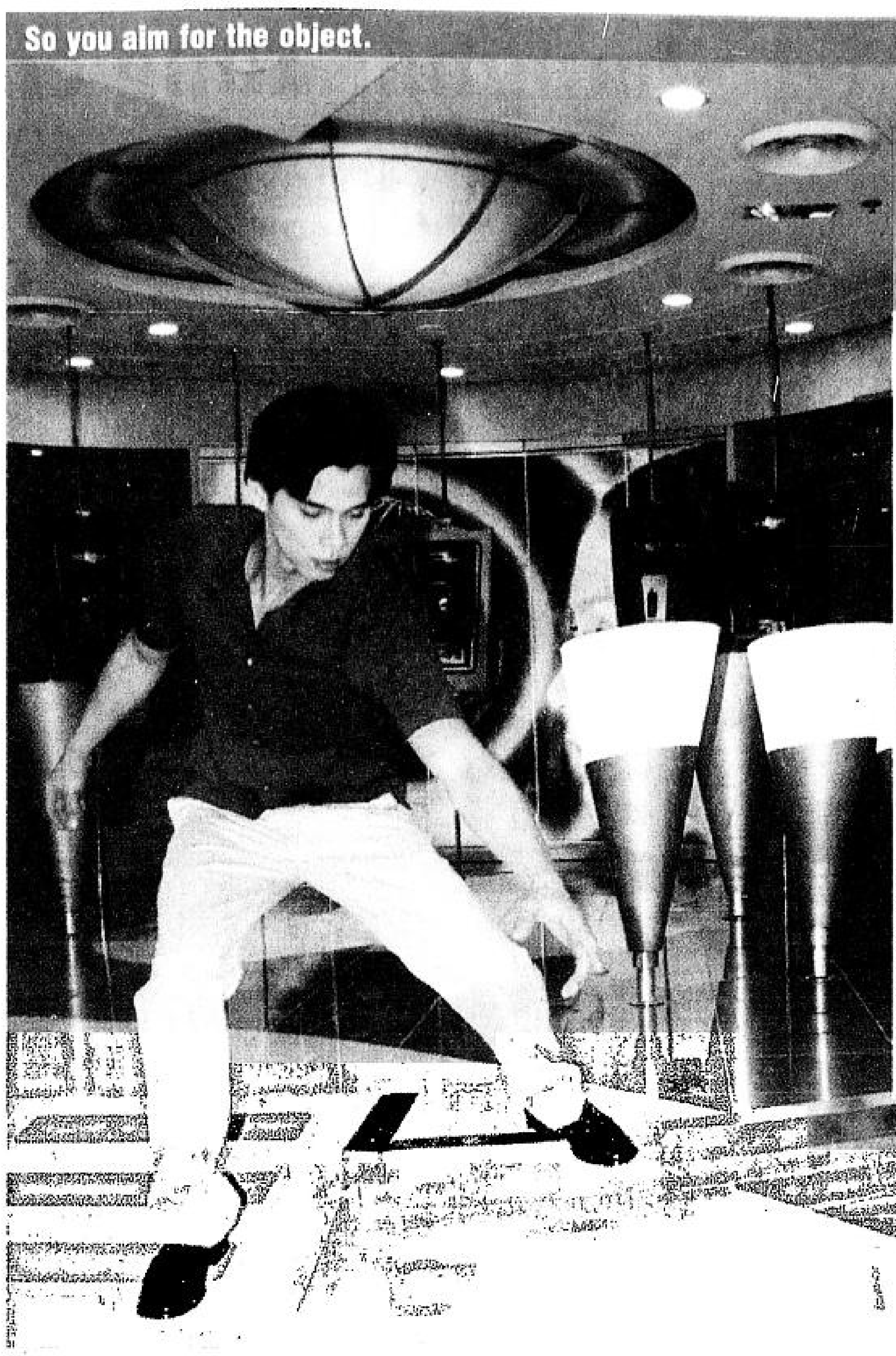

Shielded from loneliness since youth, [illegible] believe that finding [illegible]

MIKEY wears a red knit shirt with a charcoal jacket in polyblend and navy cotton twill and leather loafers.

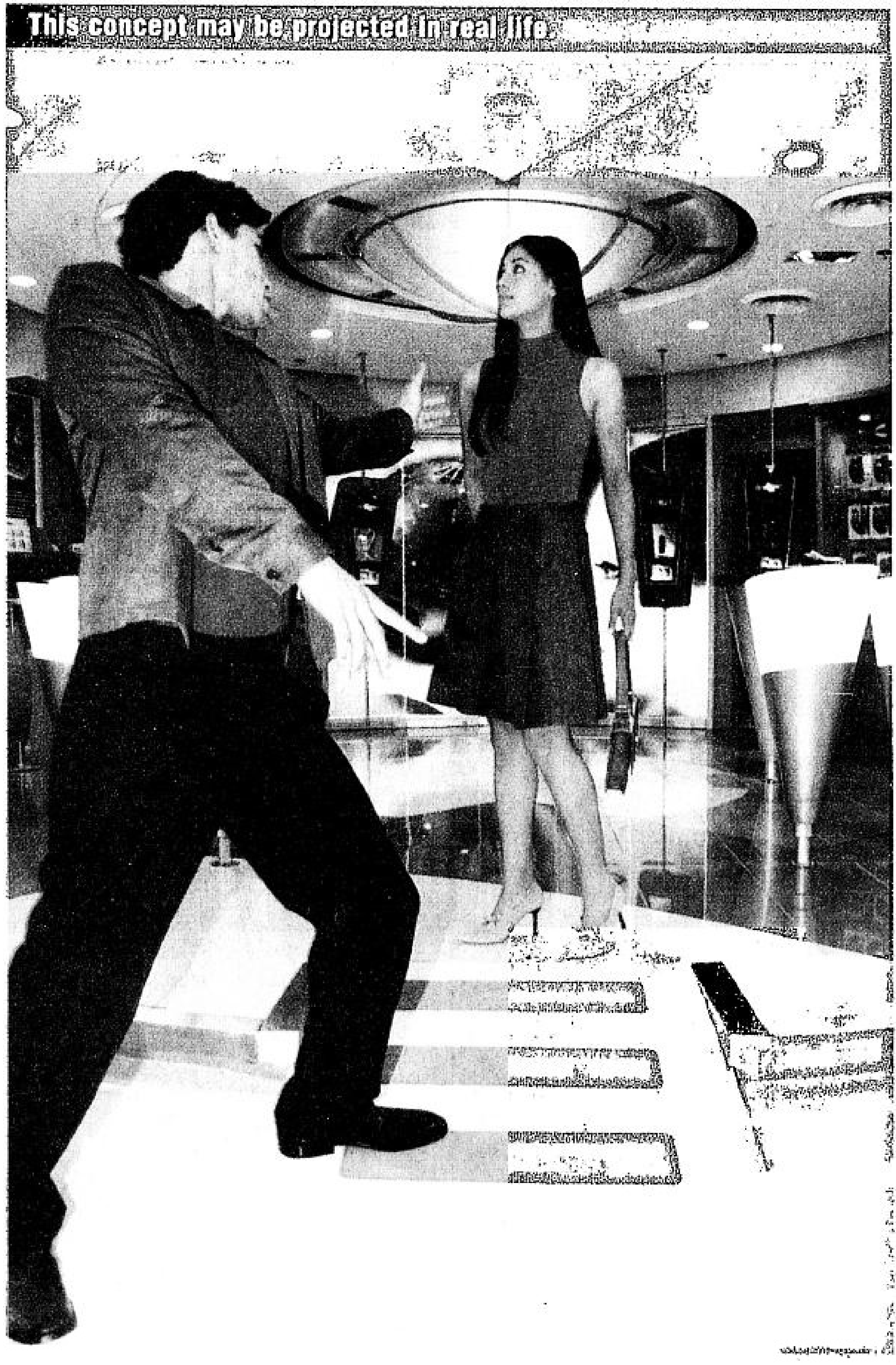

So you aim for the object.

As in the movies, the most beautiful character is often portrayed as the one who finds love because she wasn't on the lookout.

NAFSIKA wears a red georgette tie-back dress with calf-skin pumps in burnt orange.

Looking for love

Don't try too hard, or you'll never find it


This concept may be projected in real life.

NAFSIKA wears a burnt orange sleeveless mock turtleneck knit shirt and a denim front-pleated A-line skirt.

MIKEY wears a wine short-sleeved polo in cotton twill.

An adage says love is unerring because all mistakes are the necessity of love.

MIKEY wears a teal long-sleeved knit shirt and cotton twill chinos. Nafsika wears a caramel bias-cut, blouse in stretch linen over a denim A-line skirt with stitch details and suede caramel pumps.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO DIMPY JAZMINES OF GLOBE

Mama's boy dumps her

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

I AM in my late 20s and hold a good job in a prominent company. Dennis (who is three years younger) and I have been going steady for more than a year now. He's my third boyfriend; I am his first.

Since we started going out, I noticed how much he adored his mom—a value I find rare and admirable in a man. He actually has other good qualities. Although he is not good-looking, he is intelligent, has a sound opinion on things and mature for his age. I fell madly in love for the first time.

I met his mom only a few times. Last week we talked on the phone, and for the first time I felt close to her. She shared with me her thoughts on marriage, her children, their struggles as a family, even premarital sex. She advised me not to rush things and not to be jealous of their closeness. I considered it good advice. We shared the same ideas and we ended our talk on a happy note.

However, sometime during that conversation she must have misunderstood me. Dennis later told me that his mom thought I would like to get married soon. He would not tell me exactly what his mom said, but it was clear that he felt pressured into choosing between his family and me.

I explained to him that marriage was not yet part of the plan, that we were still building a good foundation for our relationship. I asked his permission to talk to his mom so I could clear things up, even apologize if I said something to upset her. But he did not want me to do that.

He told me he had lost his momentum and did not know when he would regain it. He said he wanted to be by himself. He didn't mention love. That day, he broke up with me.

I am thinking of talking to his mom. However, I also feel that even that will not bring us back together.

I still can't believe this has happened. I don't know what to do. I felt I was not given a chance to explain or clear my side. I don't even know what I did wrong. I love him so much. I care for his mom, too.

LEILA

I don't think you did anything wrong, *hija*. Dennis, on the other hand, might have acted rashly.

If he truly loved you and he was the mature person you believed him to be, then he would have told you what his mom said and asked for your side of the story. It's only then that he should decide.

Some people would see the situation as a case of your word against his mom's. If that was also how Dennis saw it, then if he accepted your version, it would mean that his mother was wrong—either she was lying or failed to understand what you said. A son who adores his mother would not be able to accept that. For him, therefore, it was better not to hear your version or explanation.

If he truly loved you and was as mature as you said he was, Dennis should have handled the situation differently. He should have considered the possibility that neither you nor his mom was wrong, that, as you said, it was a simple case of misinterpretation. That did not necessarily mean that his mom had poor listening skills. It could have meant that you failed to express your ideas clearly.

My suggestion is that you give Dennis two weeks to initiate a reconciliation. If he doesn't, then give him up for good. A boyfriend who cannot have his mother's word challenged, even if unintentionally and without malice, is still immature. He will do as a friend, but not as a boyfriend. He still has a lot of growing up to do before he can be a good husband.

* * *

I ALWAYS enjoy reading your column. Several times I have wanted to write to you about my problem, but I can't quite do it yet. I'm afraid that my identity will become known. So, I just wait for your column to respond to a problem that is similar to mine. I know you're busy, so I won't make this letter long.

TIM

I've received many e-mails like yours, my dear. I'll probably receive more. Like you, some letter-senders fear exposure. Others imply that I might find their problem shocking or, on the other hand, petty.

This column has been here for many years (one reader said she grew up reading me). I continue to get a good share of shocking problems (most of which I answer personally and do not print here). I'm not posing a challenge, but I don't think there is still a problem out there that could shock me into catatonia.

As to petty problems, I don't think I have received any. A problem reaches me because someone made an effort to write it down. If he or she took the trouble, then the problem couldn't be petty.

No, *hijo*, my problem is not being shocked or bored by the letters I receive. My problem is not having enough time to reply to them sooner.

As to being exposed, rest assured that I will withhold your name or e-mail address, if that is what you want. I myself like a little mystery occasionally.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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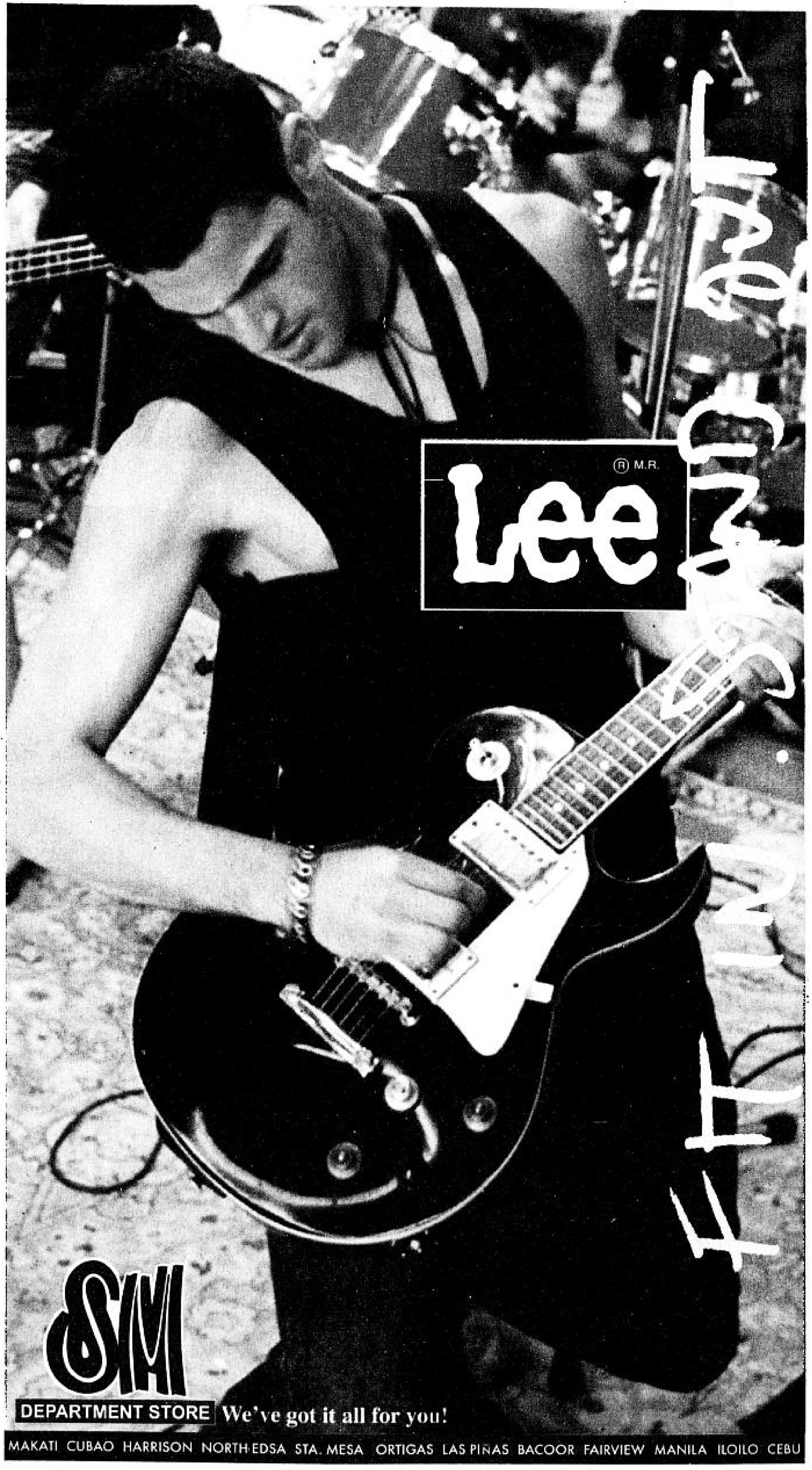

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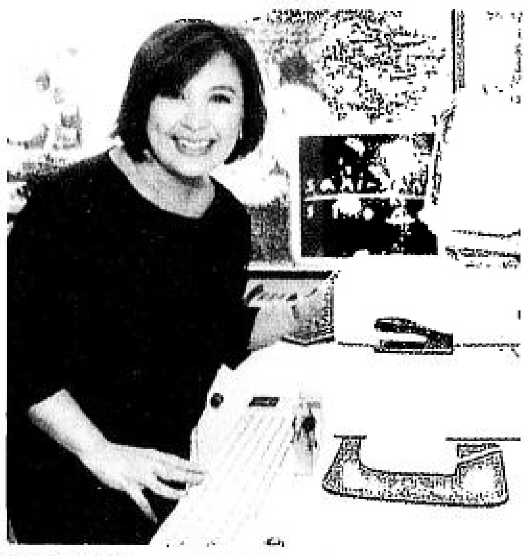
Star-studded launch of Sharon's other baby



"*KAHERA*" Sari-Sari franchise owner Sharon Cuneta

ARA Mina and Joyce Jimenez in Sari-Sari's "Sex and the City"-inspired collection

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta becomes the first local store franchisee at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, which is renowned for foreign designer labels.

Cuneta, together with Sari-Sari, officially launched their "baby," the newest Sari-Sari store on the third floor of the mall Sept. 18. The megastar has been a loyal Sari-Sari girl since the '80s.

Members of the Sari-Sari family, led by president Marni Ocampo, AVPs Mar-G Ocampo and Anna Ocampo-Sarmiento, franchise operations director Kayoy Lansigan, and director for advertising and promotions GP Reyes, attended the launch.

Cuneta was joined by husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, daughters KC Concepcion and Frankie Pangilinan, mother Elaine Cuneta and parents-in-law Donnie and Emma Pangilinan.

Food for the launch was prepared by Sari-Sari EVP Aleth Ocampo-Mapa from the first-ever Sari-Sari Café (at Rockwell). It included *tanglad* iced tea, mixed Asian noodles, *pan de sal* flowers and carrot cake topped with *kesong puti* (dubbed "Kapantay ay Langit," in honor of a Cuneta- movie).

A ramp was set up in front of the store for a fashion show of Sari-Sari's latest collection. The show featured not only professional models but movies like TV host Amy Perez, cousin Ciara Sotto, bombshells Joyce Jimenez and Ara Mina, actress-models Angel Aquino and Wilma Doesnt.

Cutie pie John Pratts, heartthrob Rico Yan and wacky performer Randy Santiago hammed it up, delighting the audience. A standout was the very reluctant model, writer and TV host Jessica Zafra, who wore an Annie Hall tie-and-suit ensemble updated for 2001.

Two young painters, Daniel Ferrer and Heherson Esmeralda, did on-the-spot caricatures of Sharon.

Director Robbie Carmona set the fashion show to music, which was a remix of big band, trippy sounds and standards, with old Cuneta songs thrown in for good measure, like "Mr. DJ" and "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas."

VIP guests included Cinderella owner Therese Coronel-Santos, society chronicler Donnie Ramirez, People Asia's Philip Cu-Unjieng, Mega Magazine's Sari Yap, Liza Ilarde, Pierra Calasanz and Lorraine Belmonte, Seventeen's Maddy Madrid, Youngstar's Anna Cruz, Lexi Schultz and Luis Espiritu, TeenMag's Joyce Fernandez, Chalk's Jenni Epperson, Mr. And Ms.' Mariano Un Ocampo and Miguel Pastor, party man Tim Yap, Cuneta's sister-in-law Vicky Pangilinan, good friends Philip Cuazon Jr. and Olive Isidro-Cruz, Viva's Baby Gil and Sandy Santamaria, cousin and QC councilor Lala Sotto, Venezia's Louie Ysmael, Sari-Sari franchisees Tess Tueres and Zenny Cheng, architect Raymund Sarmiento, Jojo Mapa, furniture designer Jude Tiotuico, historian Ambeth Ocampo, and show-biz colleagues Fanny Serrano, Vina Morales, Eula Valdez, Rowell Santiago and Rustom Padilla. The flower arrangement was by Nestor Pagulayan, while makeup was done by Salon de Orient.

CROWD favorite Randy Santiago on the ramp

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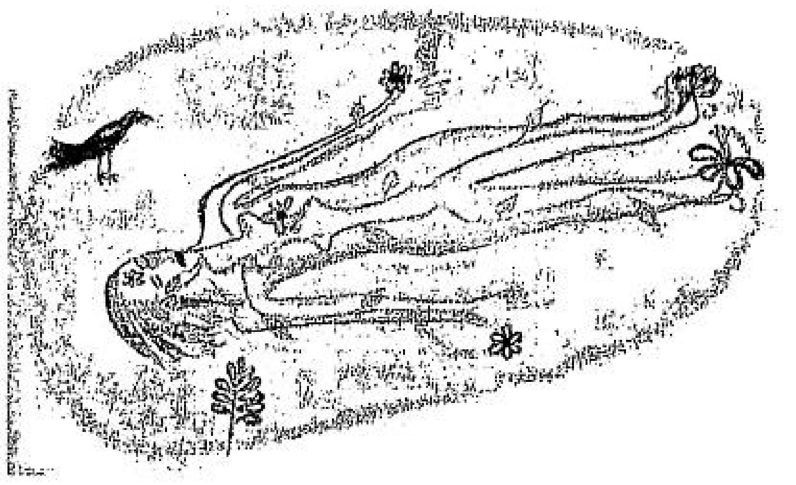

Mike George says one should not look at relaxing as a weekend off. It should be perpetual

The science of relaxing

Learn to Relax: Easing Tension, Conquering Stress, Feeling the Self
By Mike George
153 pages

REVIEW

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

IT seems absurd to have to read a book on how to relax. After all, the very nature of relaxation alone seems to contradict the need to "learn" how to do it. But how do we relax? A weekend out of town could be relaxing in the same way a massage is. Both offer temporary distractions from the stress we are faced with on a daily basis at work, in school or even in navigating various relationships. But the key word is "temporary." As soon as Monday rolls along, we are back to the same vicious cycle.

Author and renowned speaker Mike George takes relaxation to the next level in his book, "Learn to Relax," which offers practical advice and exercises on how to achieve relaxation on a more permanent basis. He says the choice is ours. We can push ourselves to the limit in everything we do, trying to do everything at once at breakneck speed, or we can choose to follow a slower path that will ultimately accomplish the same goals.

George says the word "stress" is overused. He suggests that we seem to have a curious preoccupation with it, often competing with each other to see who is more "stressed." We erroneously equate a high stress level with success, not realizing that more often than not, stress impedes the completion of our goals. Furthermore, stress has debilitating side effects that are detrimental to our health, some symptoms of which are loneliness, insecurity, loss of memory, sleeping difficulties, impatience and loss of appetite.

Visualization

"Learn to Relax" offers simple visualization exercises that are mostly meditation techniques that we can work on for a few minutes each day. The book is divided into several categories with various uncomplicated essays on each one. In "The Road to Relaxation," George discusses stress and how it basically affects us. In "Stillness, Breath and Calm," he focuses on meditation and sensual enhancement. He believes the senses contribute greatly to relaxation and encourages New Age methods like aromatherapy to alleviate stress.

"The Body at Rest and in Motion" relates how exercise can elevate our moods. Apparently, endorphins are good for us and as long as our exercise doesn't border on the excessive, it is a great way of invigorating ourselves. "The Self and Relationships" offers ideas on discovering our personal power and how to deal with our interpersonal relationships, while the chapter on "Mind Power" talks about how our addiction to action blurs our real needs. George says that taking time to organize our inner self can help in finding some clarity.

Basically, George tells us that we have the power to instigate change in our lives. He says, "Unless we break habits and refocus ourselves to change, we will never feel relaxed because we will never be able to break patterns of negative thinking."

The key is to stop perpetuating the things that weigh us down. For example, letting go of the past is a valuable concept that many fail to really grasp. Letting past disappointments discourage us is a major mental block that gets in the way of success. It also fosters permanent fears or phobias that actually keep us from relaxing.

The same goes for our expectations in life. For instance, George says, "Anxiety about our prospects of finding love or for that matter friendship will almost inevitably erode our chances of success." We should stop conditioning ourselves to believe that there are absolutes in life—like finding a partner. George encourages finding peace within us because peace in solitude will result to peace in other aspects in our life.

Laughter

There are other basic things that George teaches that we probably know but need to be reminded of. For instance, the power of laughter. He says, "Laughter stimulates beneficial, even life-preserving chemicals in the brain." When we laugh, tension disappears, apprehension is banished, the ability to think positively is increased and contentment is restored. Think about that next time you feel like stress is pushing you into a corner.

George's books are always pleasing to the eye. "Learn to Relax" has illustrations in a cool palette, probably selected for its ability to relax with the use of color. His methods and techniques vary and he bases many of his approaches on Eastern methods like mantras, *mandalas* and yoga. Some of the visualization techniques might be too esoteric for some people, but he says that meditation doesn't mean turning into a Buddhist monk.

Daydreaming, which we often unconsciously do, is already a form of meditation, we just have to know how to hone it. And as George always points out, it just takes a few simple techniques to get our problems in perspective and gain more control over our inner and outer lives.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Mike George will give a free lecture today at 6:30 p.m. on how to handle crisis at the Mondragon House on 324 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For details of "Learn to Relax" and the lecture, call 890-7960 or 922-9231

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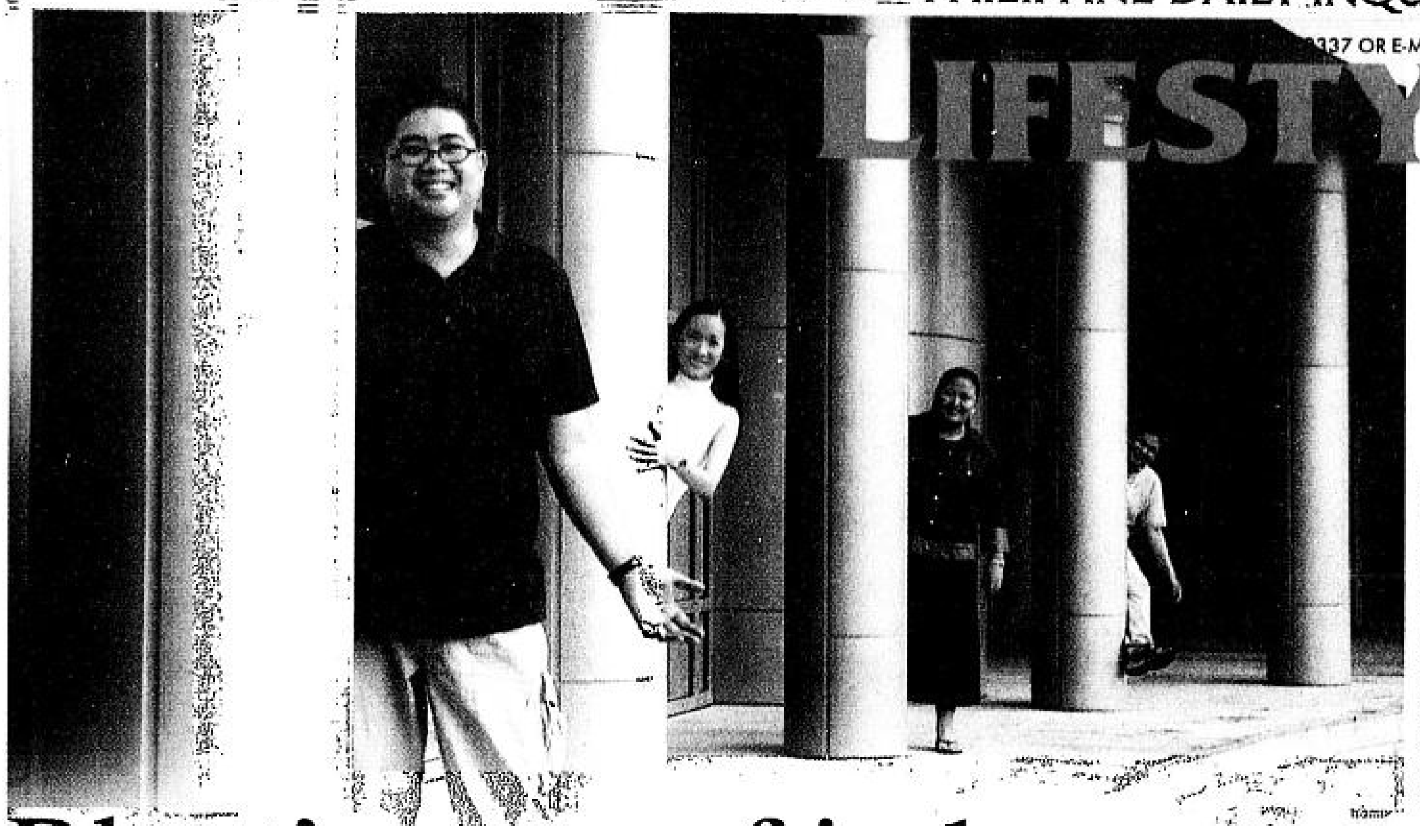

THE TEAM. Designer Rhett Eala, Cindy Yap-Yang, president of Wink Inc.; producer Tara Santos and makeup expert Henry Calayag

(Story on page D5)

Rhett's state of independence

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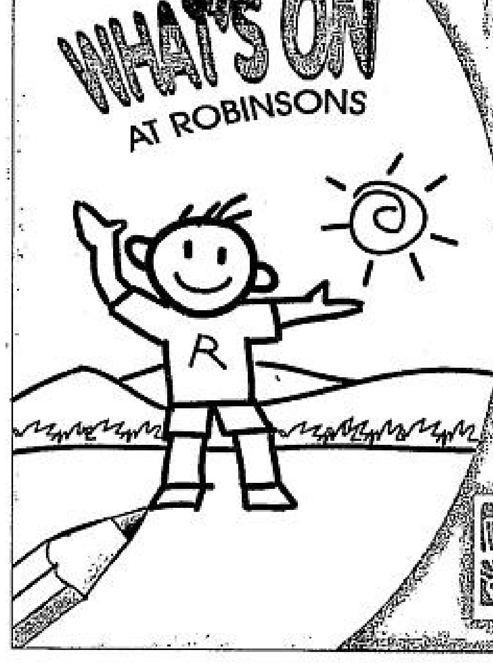

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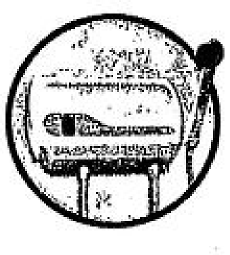

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Hair signifies the animal in you. Thick hair signifies an active sexual life.

1 Type in DREAM <topic> EX. DREAM HAIR
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive your dream interpretation.

www.zed.com

Ascetic gloss

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

Today's look is shiny and lustrous, but restrained

IN KEEPING with the coming holiday season yet maintaining sobriety in deference to the times, the key makeup look is understated shimmer. That's Body Shop's pre-holiday forecast called "A Feast of Rich Color."

This limited-edition collection is rich in the sense that the colors are red, metallic and sepia combined with shimmer, gold and platinum to go with the tinsel and lights.

Body Shop's Colourings makeup consultant Merry Carlos says previously customers merely shopped for lotions, scrubs and lip balms. Today they are looking up to the Colourings line for its latest trends. Previously the makeup line featured natural colors, as a spinoff of its natural skin-care image. Now Colourings is tied closely to fashion. Consumers are buying the products for the up-to-date looks rather than just a lipstick or blusher. Women who patronize American and French brands are recognizing this British brand for its natural ingredients, innovations and its tie-up with poor communities.

Carlos was trained in the UK under Colourings expert Chase Ashton, who does the faces of Britney Spears and the Spice Girls. Ashton is famous for his fresh-faced look. Doe-like eyes, rosy cheeks, full pale lips and highlights on the corner of the eyes characterize his trademark style.

Carlos says the eye makeup is moving from the oxidized metallic look to chocolate, browns and mulberry.

The Shimmer Crayon is handy, user-friendly and lasts all night. It combines the intensity of a powder eye shadow with a creamy application. The powder absorbs excess oil around the eye while the olive oil prevents flaking, especially in dry skins.

For a warm tone, use Patina, brown with gold shimmer, and Antique Gold. Carlos recommends this warm palette for a mature and sophisticated look. She adds black liquid eyeliner and smudges it with her fingertips. Plums and wine are classic holiday lip colors to balance dark eyes.

For the cool tone that's great for evening, use Platinum, metallic silver with iridescent azure sparkle and silver. Both can actually be used from day to night. Just add more color before your cocktail.

You have a choice of the sexy red lip gloss or a deep pink gloss. For a party look, the Glitter Lip Tints have a gold or silver highlight that can be worn alone or over your lipstick.

The Gold Sparkle dust is a glittery powder with iridescent pearl pigments that guarantees that a speckle of dust goes a long way. The organic oil enables the skin to absorb moisture.

Dust it over the face, collarbone and shoulders with a body or blusher brush for the dressed-up look. Use it to highlight the brow and cheekbones.

Carlos suggests using Hydrating Skin Freshener to fix the makeup skin and give a luminous effect.

Part of Body Shop's marketing savvy is explaining to the consumers that when they buy their products, they're actually helping a community. This piece of information helps us become guilt-free in indulging in our fetish, especially in these hard times.

Colouring's party collection was not simply designed to cater to the caprices of a fickle market. Body Shop gets its olive oil, which is found in most of these products, from the Nuovo Cilento cooperative in Campania, one of the poor regions in Italy. The cooperative was revived to help its 200 members. The Body Shop Community Trade program exchanges with its Italian suppliers who receive a fair price by eliminating the middlemen. Now that's marketing with a conscience.

Marge C. Enriquez

DEWY DAYTIME LOOK. Platinum and Silver Shimmery Crayons are applied directly to the eyes. Pink lip tint and Body Shop's Glow Enhancer balance the other parts of the face.

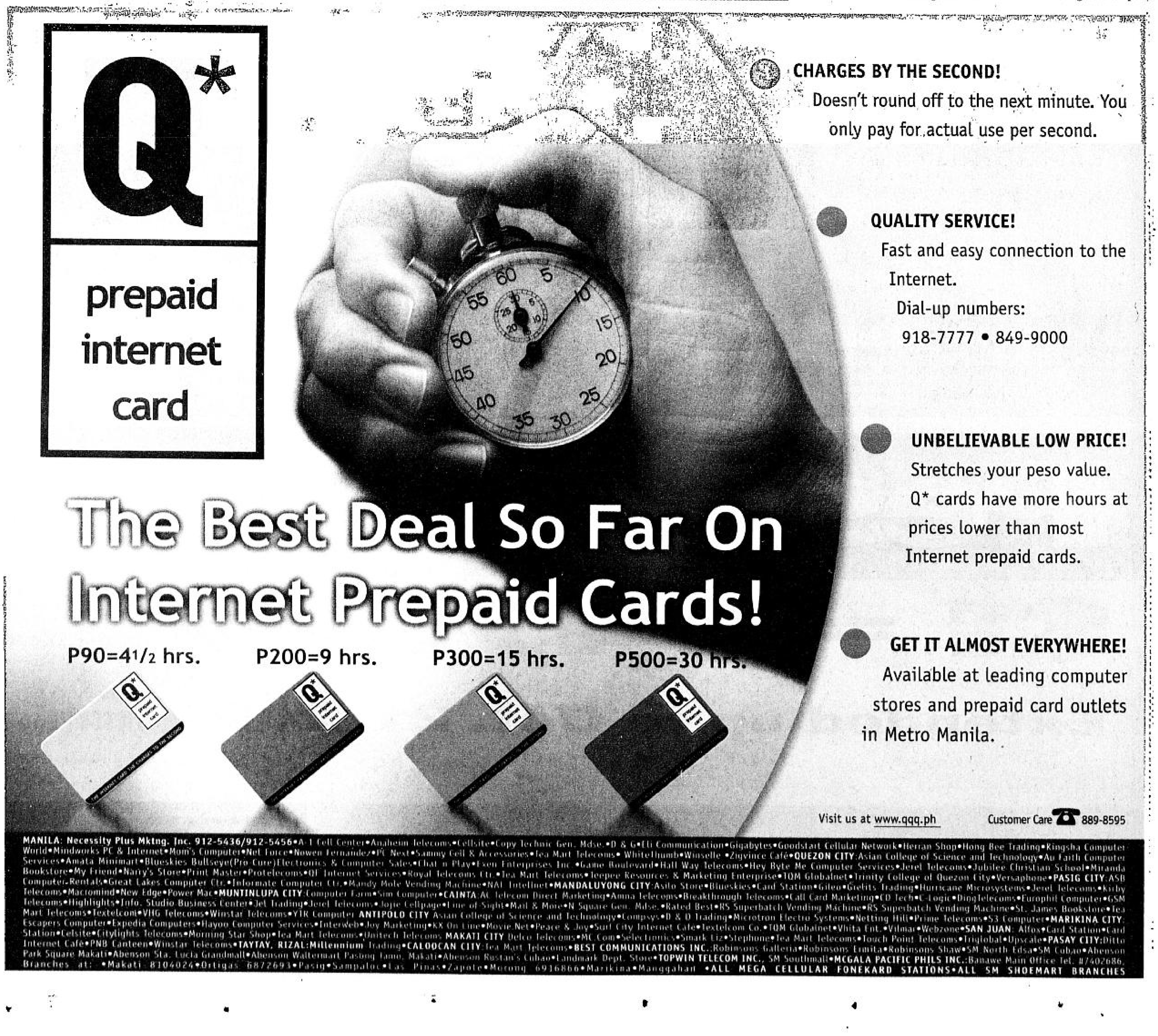
MAKEUP:
MERRY CARLOS,
BODY SHOP COLOURINGS

HAIR:
LOURD RYAN RAMOS,
EMPHASIS SALON,
ROCKWELL INFORMATION CENTER

MODEL:
JOAN DE MESA,
SUPERMODEL 2000, CAL
CARRIE INTERNATIONAL

LOCATION:
DUSIT NIKKO HOTEL

MATURE AND SOPHISTICATED. For women of a certain age, Merry Carlos recommends Patina and Antique Gold Shimmer Crayons. Patina is used for the lips and eyes. Antique gold was smudged on the outer and inner corners of the eyes. She smudged lids with black eye liner. The lips glow with Red Lip Mist. Dust the cheekbones with shimmer dust.



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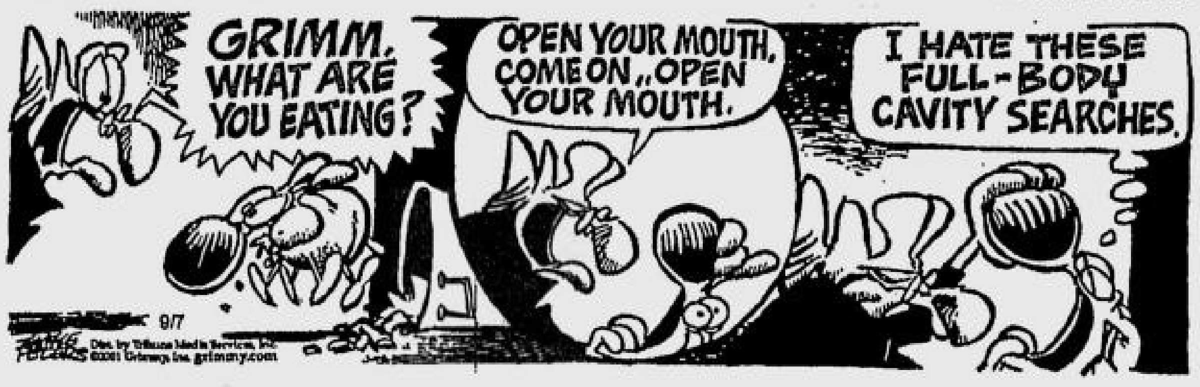
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, WHAT ARE YOU EATING?
OPEN YOUR MOUTH, COME ON.. OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
I HATE THESE FULL-BODY CAVITY SEARCHES.
9/7
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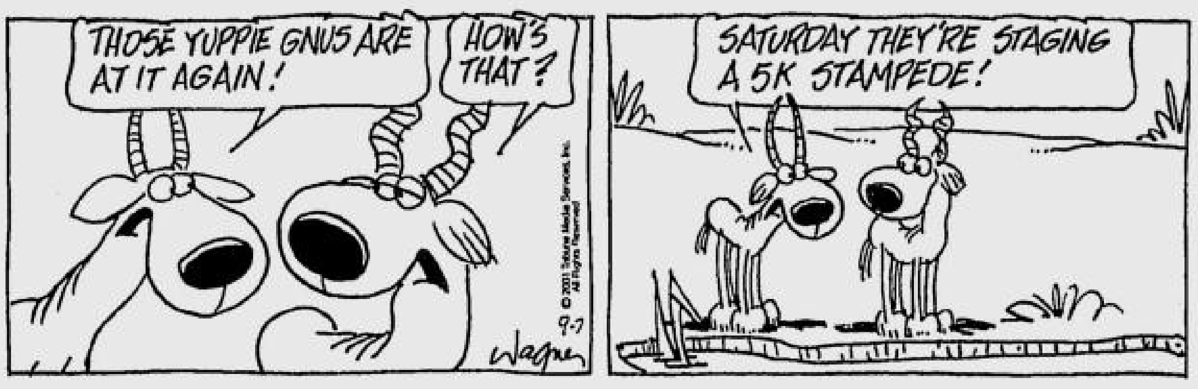
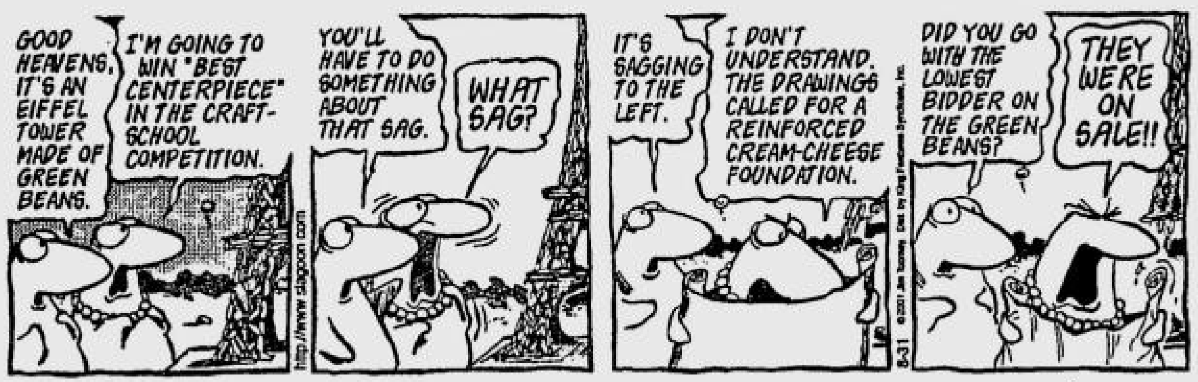
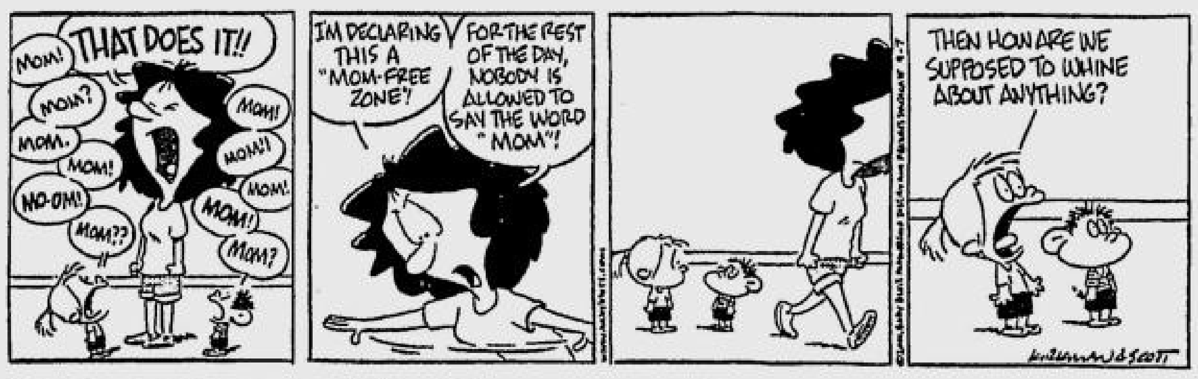
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


THOSE YUPPIE GNUS ARE AT IT AGAIN!
HOW'S THAT?
SATURDAY THEY'RE STAGING A 5K STAMPEDE!
9-7
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


GOOD HEAVENS, IT'S AN EIFFEL TOWER MADE OF GREEN BEANS.
I'M GOING TO WIN "BEST CENTERPIECE" IN THE CRAFT-SCHOOL COMPETITION.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT SAG.
WHAT SAG?
IT'S SAGGING TO THE LEFT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE DRAWINGS CALLED FOR A REINFORCED CREAM-CHEESE FOUNDATION.
DID YOU GO WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER ON THE GREEN BEANS?
THEY WERE ON SALE!!
http://www.slagoon.com
8-31

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM!
THAT DOES IT!!
MOM?
MOM.
MOM!
NO-OM!
MOM??
MOM!
MOM!!
MOM!
MOM!!
MOM?
I'M DECLARING THIS A "MOM-FREE ZONE"!
FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, NOBODY IS ALLOWED TO SAY THE WORD "MOM"!
THEN HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO WHINE ABOUT ANYTHING?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TCELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Clive Barker, Karen Allen, Michael Andretti, Kate Winslet, Mario Lemieux

Happy Birthday: If you think clearly and believe in yourself, you can make a difference. Stop dreaming and take action. Your precise nature will help you choose enjoyable projects and do them thoroughly. Success will be yours. Your numbers: 12, 14, 18, 31, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for a promotion or new position that will lead to financial freedom. Be cautious with investments. Taking a risk or gambling will end in loss. Ask for financial advice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be emotional today. Make plans early so that you don't feel left out. This could be a day for love and romance if you leave home. Mix a little business with pleasure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate on professional gains and don't slack off right before the weekend. Don't rely on anyone else to complete the work. Invite friends over for a get-together and you'll discover secrets.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll meet someone interesting or further your current relationship today. Let others know exactly how you feel and what your intentions are. A new acquaintance will spark your interest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make headway if you do some networking. Mix business with pleasure. Socialize with colleagues, but don't be too quick to divulge your personal life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your talents are likely to be discovered if you promote your own interests. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Do take a trip if the opportunity arises. You need a break once in a while.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Clear up any loose ends before the weekend. You have the know-how, but should exercise discipline. Laziness will send the wrong signals to your boss. Do your share and offer to help colleagues in order to reap rewards.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your personal life will have you tied up in knots. Contracts must be dealt with quickly. Things aren't as they appear, so keep an open mind and be observant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love will develop at work-related social events. You will be your usual charming self and will attract the adventurous type. Check out investment opportunities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Broaden your horizons and look into programs that teach awareness and relaxation, which could relieve your stress. Changes at work should not upset you.

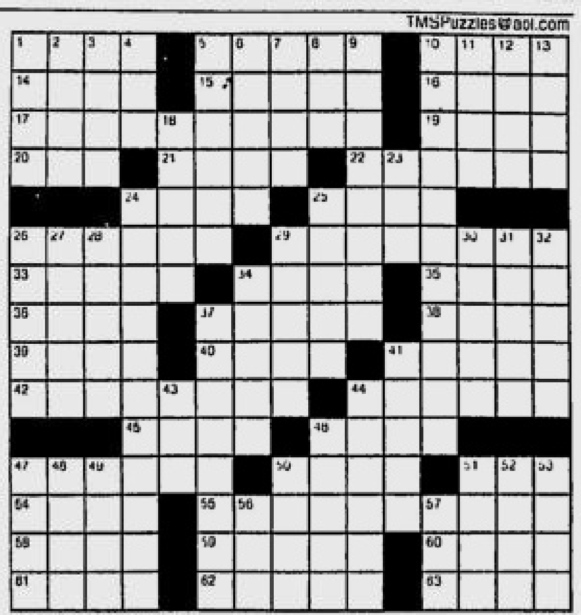
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Family responsibilities are mounting. Don't let siblings put pressure on you. Make sure they do their share. Focus on changes to your house. It's important to pamper yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spend time mingling. This is the perfect day to meet someone special through friends or relatives. Don't turn down an invitation even if you don't feel much like going out.

Birthday Baby: You are an adventurer and a wanderer. You will always strive to accomplish the goals you set for yourself throughout life. You are sensitive and caring.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

8/21/01

ACROSS
1 Racing circuits
5 Reddish yellow
10 Present Persia
14 Sector
15 Roman fountain
16 Protuberance
17 Avoid jail with music?
19 __ accompli
20 Draft org.
21 Listen to
22 Ridicules
24 Corker
25 Medicinal tablet
26 Panel of one's peers
29 Michigan city
33 A point ahead
34 French pronoun
35 Alone
36 Hemsley sitcom
37 Attempts
38 Disarming charm
39 Cozy abode
40 Orange coat?
41 Pooped
42 Actor Hayden
44 Cajoles with sweet talk
45 Votes for
46 Suspended
47 Tooth covering
50 "La Boheme" heroine
51 Spanish Mrs.
54 Surrealist Salvador
56 All-time low with music?
58 & others
59 One of the archangels
60 Helper
61 Proboscis
62 Cacophony
63 Very French

DOWN
1 Sci. classes
2 God of war
3 Garden vegetables
4 Used chairs
5 Different ones
6 Ideology
7 Bovine bunch
8 __ Marie Saint
9 Conflicting ocean motions
10 Operating to capacity with music?
11 Horse color
12 Mine entrance
13 New Jersey team
18 Choreographer Twyla
23 Ms. MacGraw
24 Down the road a piece with music?
25 Blanched
26 Bennett and Benoit
27 Not yet fulfilled
28 Singer Della
29 Resist separation
30 French river
31 Tin Pan __
32 Univ. women
34 Gray and Moran
37 Test
41 Mann novel, "__ Kroger"
43 Director Spike
44 Self-effacing
46 Trips in the woods
47 Genesis spot
48 European defense assn.
49 Interjection of sorrow
50 DLI doubled
51 The slammer
52 Badgered
53 Singer Ed
55 Guadalajara gold
57 Make lace

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	A	P	S		A	L	A	S		C	S	P	A	N
U	G	L	Y		L	E	N	T		O	H	A	R	E
L	E	E	R		U	N	T	O		M	O	L	E	S
S	N	A	I	L	M	A	I	L		E	C	L	A	T
A	T	T	A	I	N			E	R	I	K			
				P	I	G	S		I	N	J	E	S	T
H	A	R	P	S		R	A	F	T		O	L	E	O
O	M	A	R		C	A	B	L	E		C	L	A	N
L	E	V	I		A	B	L	E		S	K	A	T	E
E	X	E	M	P	T		E	X	P	O				
			E	L	S	A			A	P	P	L	E	S
G	R	E	T	A		F	A	I	R	S	H	A	R	E
A	U	D	I	T		T	I	N	T		A	N	N	E
S	L	I	M	E		E	D	G	E		S	K	I	D
P	E	T	E	S		R	E	E	D		E	Y	E	S

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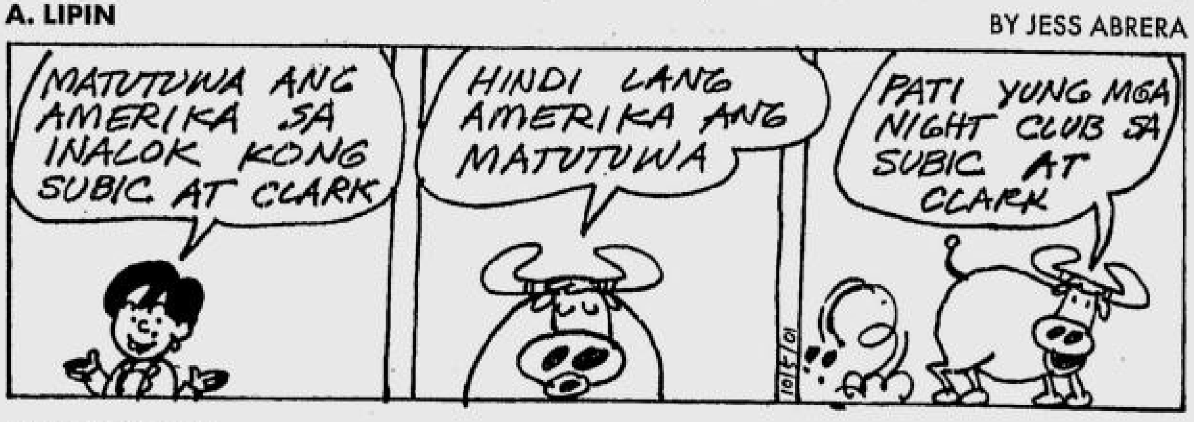
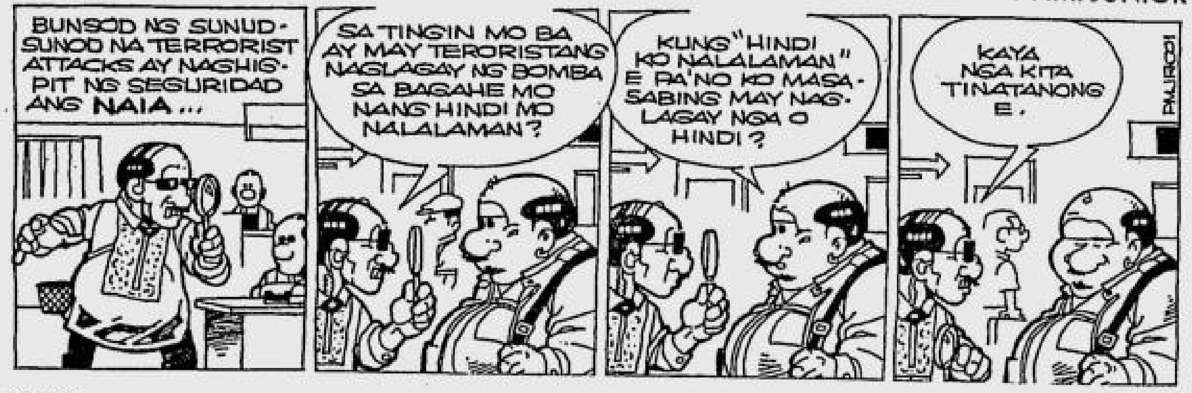
8/21/01

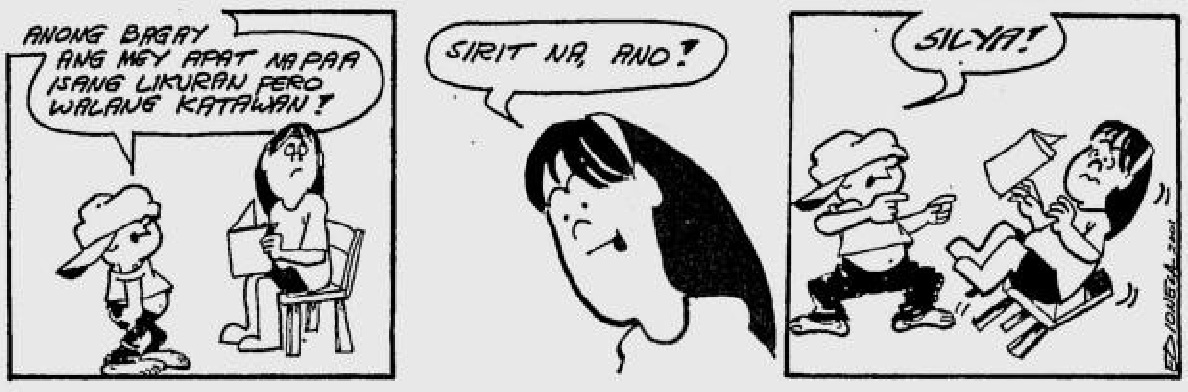
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MATUTUWA ANG AMERIKA SA INALOK KONG SUBIC AT CLARK
HINDI LANG AMERIKA ANG MATUTUWA
PATI YUNG MGA NIGHT CLUB SA SUBIC AT CLARK
10/5/01

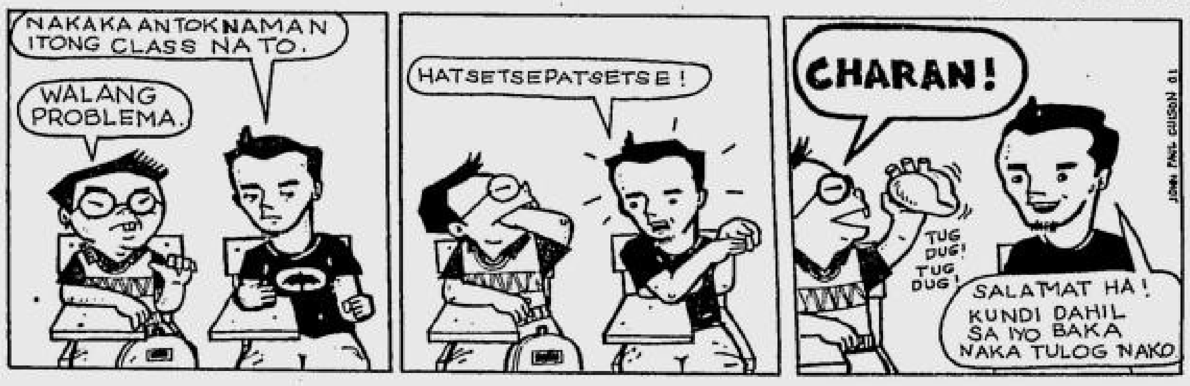
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUNSOD NG SUNUD-SUNOD NA TERRORIST ATTACKS AY NAGHIGPIT NG SEGURIDAD ANG NAIA...
SA TINGIN MO BA AY MAY TERORISTANG NAGLAGAY NG BOMBA SA BAGAHE MO NANG HINDI MO NALALAMAN?
KUNG "HINDI KO NALALAMAN," E PA'NO KO MASASABING MAY NAGLAGAY NGA O HINDI?
KAYA NGA KITA TINATANONG E.
PMJR 01

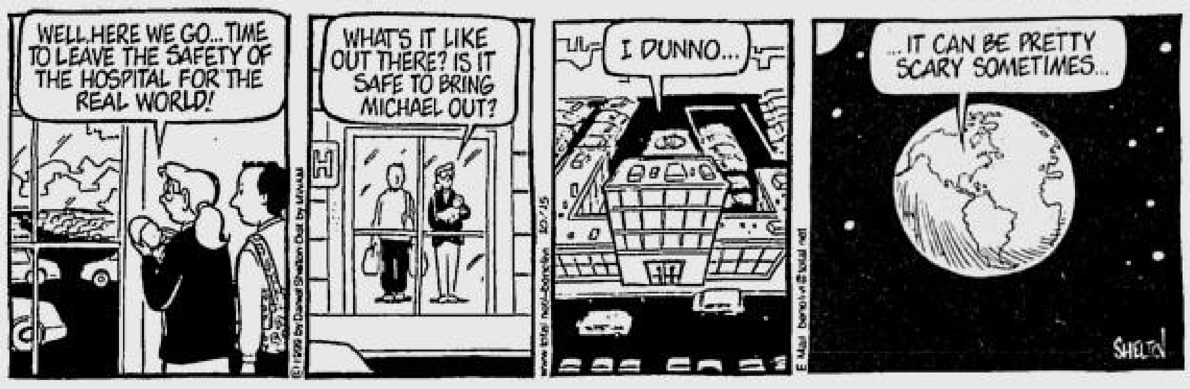
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG BAGAY ANG MEY APAT NA PAA ISANG LIKURAN PERO WALANG KATAWAN?
SIRIT NA, ANO?
SILYA!
EDIONELA 2001

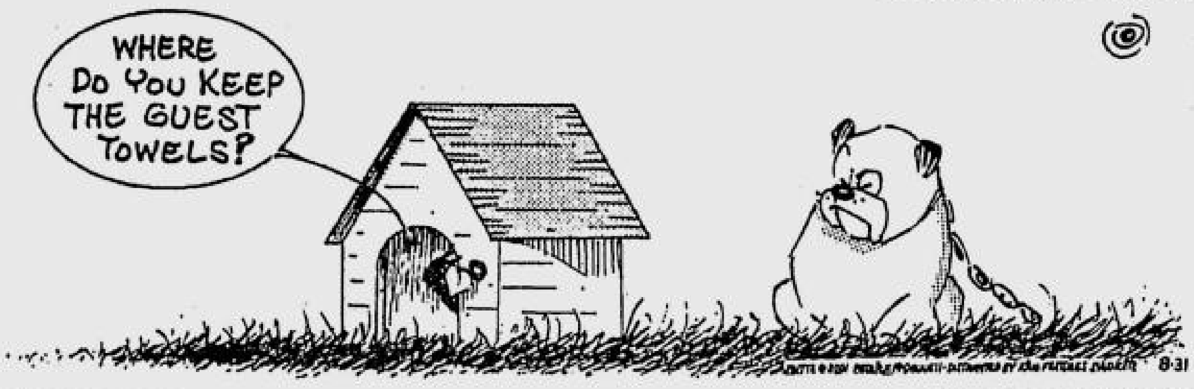
GARAPATA BLOOD
BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


NAKAKA ANTOK NAMAN ITONG CLASS NA TO.
WALANG PROBLEMA.
HATSETSEPATSETSE!
CHARAN!
TUG DUG! TUG DUG!
SALAMAT HA! KUNDI DAHIL SA IYO BAKA NAKA TULOG NAKO.
JOHN PAUL GUISON 01

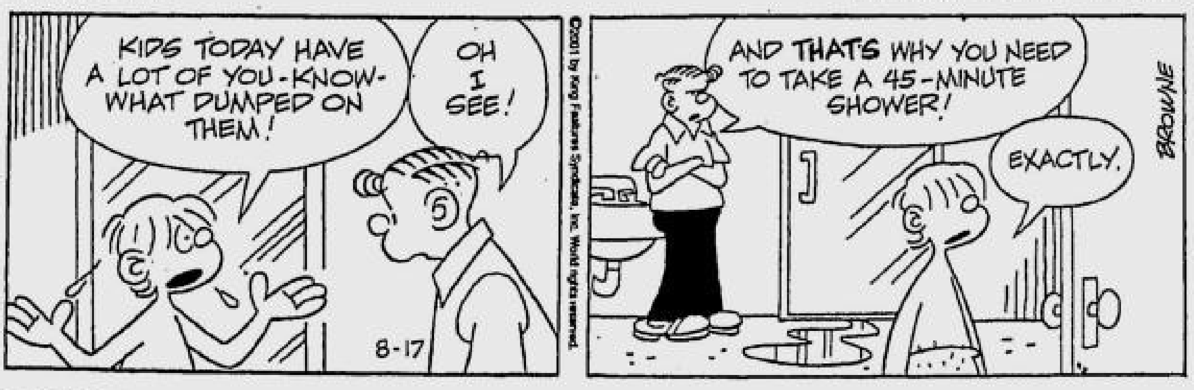
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


WELL, HERE WE GO... TIME TO LEAVE THE SAFETY OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THE REAL WORLD!
WHAT'S IT LIKE OUT THERE? IS IT SAFE TO BRING MICHAEL OUT?
I DUNNO...
...IT CAN BE PRETTY SCARY SOMETIMES...
SHELTON

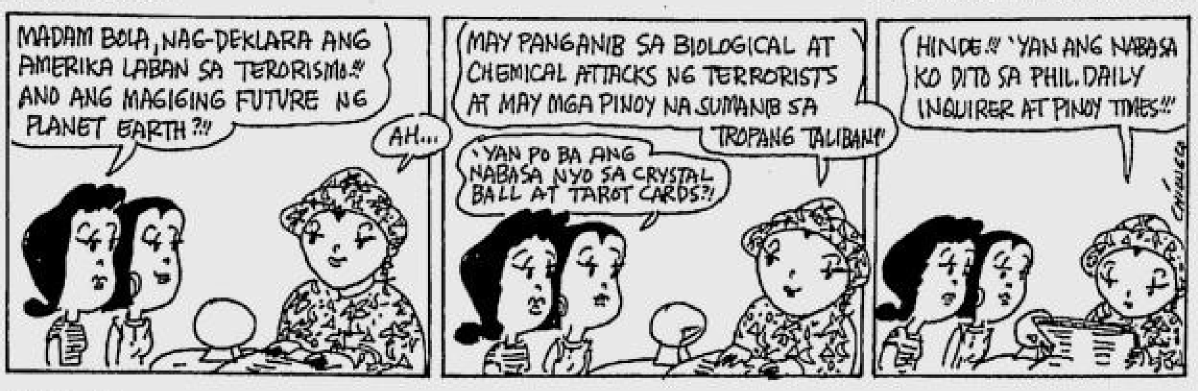
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE GUEST TOWELS?
8-31

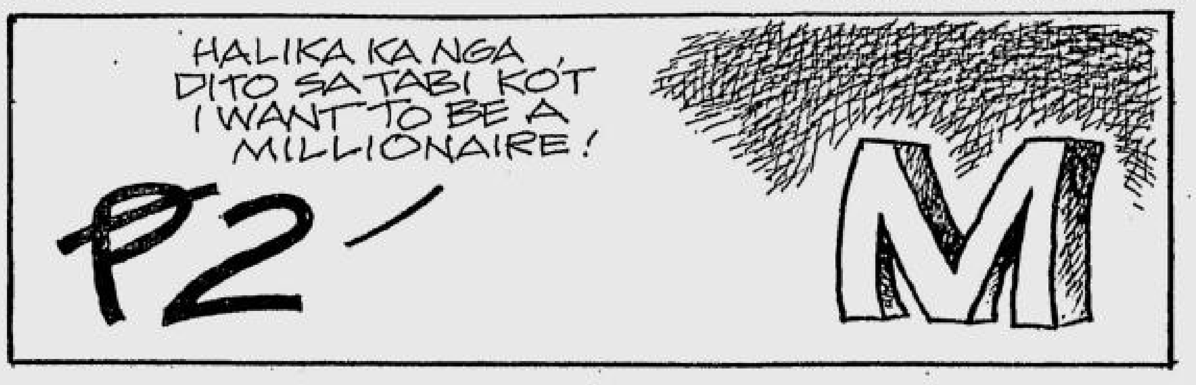
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


KIDS TODAY HAVE A LOT OF YOU-KNOW-WHAT DUMPED ON THEM!
OH I SEE!
8-17
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO TAKE A 45-MINUTE SHOWER!
EXACTLY.
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MADAM BOLA, NAG-DEKLARA ANG AMERIKA LABAN SA TERORISMO!! AND ANG MAGIGING FUTURE NG PLANET EARTH?!!
AH...
MAY PANGANIB SA BIOLOGICAL AT CHEMICAL ATTACKS NG TERRORISTS AT MAY MGA PINOY NA SUMANIB SA TROPANG TALIBAN!
'YAN PO BA ANG NABASA NYO SA CRYSTAL BALL AT TAROT CARDS?!
HINDE!! 'YAN ANG NABASA KO DITO SA PHIL. DAILY INQUIRER AT PINOY TIMES!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


HALIKA KA NGA, DITO SA TABI KO'T I WANT TO BE A MILLIONAIRE!
P2
M

Rhett's state of independence

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

WHEN designer Rhett Eala left Rustan's, he set up his own label in a Wink—as it is called.

After 11 years of being an employee, Eala felt it was time to be his own boss—with a partner, naturally, like Cindy Yap Yang. It's only logical that when one has matured in one's career, one should take up greater challenges. Most designers, especially in the RTW business, survive their venture with a financier. Eala has met his luck in his client, Yang.

It's become old news that Eala left Rustan's for many reasons, such as the professional differences with the new merchandising team and a culture that eventually put his creativity on a straitjacket. The decisions of his colleagues had influenced his designs to his dismay. As a designer who is sure of craft, Eala felt it was time to bring it to a higher level of excellence in an environment that would nurture it.

CASUAL get-up against a corporate background. The vintage Levi's was found in Chatuchak market in Bangkok and treated with Swarovski crystals. The silk ruffled blouse features open extended sleeves.

Heart-to-heart talk

Eala understood the lifestyle of his clients. Whether they were career women or not, they socialized a lot. They needed a party dress yesterday. After his last show, women lapped up his iridescent wraparound tops.

Yang is an archetype of Eala's client. She can well afford to buy imported labels, but she chose a local brand that has high value for its originality and craftsmanship. "I like his colors and the fit is good. The clothes are simple but elegant," she says.

"Simple" in that context means Eala's clothes are nonfussy and easy fitting: they respect the figure that is otherwise far from the hourglass ideal.

One day, he had a conversation with Yang about his leap of faith. Call it "*usapang lasing*," the heart-to-heart talk turned out into a business proposition. She told him that since he was a creative designer and she was an entrepreneur, why not go into a partnership? She would be the financier.

Married to McDonald's scion, Kenneth Yang, Cindy doesn't have to work. However, she enjoys challenges such as running her mother-in-law's business, Kristine Jewelry, as the branch manager of the flagship store in 6750 Ayala.

Love for fashion

Her husband was perplexed by her career decision. He wondered why she should still put up a business if he could buy her shoes and bags.

"I love fashion. I love clothes," she gushes. Well, Yang is to Eala what Bernard Arnault is to a lot of French designers.

The garment business will pose a new challenge. Unlike the jewelry business, which is personalized to the point that one has to entertain one client for several hours, the RTW business caters to an unknown customer who wants clothes Asap.

Eala is uncomfortable with the made-to-measure business wherein the designer has to be solicitous to the client. He'd rather be in the workroom, perfecting his craft than doing small talk.

The store's name, Wink, implies subtle sexiness, much like the mood that Eala's clothes exude. By sheer luck, Yang inquired for space at the Ayala Center, and in five days, they were given a 58-sq m space at Glorietta 3. A few days later, Yang acquired a 65-sq m space at Rockwell's Power Plant mall. The stores will open after the launching fashion show, directed by Jackie Aquino, on Oct. 25 at the Galleria of the RCBC Plaza.

Yang's responsibility is to handle the finances and cost control. Eala provides imagination and innovation. Yang says both of them harmonize well. As a Snake in the Chinese horoscope, she gets along with his Dragon year. "The Dragon brings luck. Don't we need it after all the hard work?" she asks. We tell her luck comes after effort—and time.

In Western astrology, she's a Gemini and he's an Aquarius. Since they're both air signs, they think alike. Her husband considers Eala as Cindy's "teddy bear."

Asked how they view their new venture, considering the uncertain times, the partners were optimistic. Says Yang, "Rhett has developed a following. His clothes are affordable and I feel this will work." Her husband has the faith that when she puts her heart and soul into project, there will be success.

Eala adds, "We Filipinos have been so used to this. The clothes will make you feel good. Everyone is afraid of that. I'm confident because we're trying to fill a gap that is lacking in RTW market."

Specialized

Wink aims to establish a niche in the after-six dressing. Although there are some department store labels that offer eveningwear, the local independent brands are few and far between. The store will carry two labels. Wink will consist of linens, knits and moderately priced clothing. The Rhett Eala label is dressier and albeit on the higher price range. The prices of the clothes range from P795-14,000. Like many local brands, half of the manufacturing—such as the knitwear with beadwork and linens—is being done in Hong Kong. However, the handmade eveningwear capitalizes on the Filipino's dexterity. The Power Plant branch will offer specialized merchandise while the G3 branch will feature an assortment.

Eala would have been happy with one outlet so he can manage a smaller volume. In department stores, there is a constant reorder for clothes in higher volume to fill up all its branches. The clothes are a fraction of a price compared with a made-to-measure designer outfit. Sometimes his clients teased him that they'd bump into other women at party wearing a similar style by Eala.

Yang sees a higher yield with more outlets.

Rhett's angel

Eala has been preparing his collection since February. He is lucky that his producer happens to be one of the owners of the building.

The idea for the show began when he and his "angel" Georgina "Tara" Yuchengco Santos were strolling down the Galleria of the new RCBC Plaza. She challenged him to make that long corridor that runs from Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue to De la Costa Street into a runway. Whoa, just think about the lighting that will nearly cover an entire street block. Eala's clothes blend with steel-and-glass architecture of the twin tower. The palette is mostly in black, white, silver and warm colors. The look is feminine and soft. He also collected vintage denims from flea markets in his travels and added crystals and beadwork. Last year, iridescent fabrics dominated his collection. This time he favors more ethereal fabrics, tulle and a contrast of leather and lightweight wool. "I'm a purist," he says. Eala still uses pure cotton and linens.

In the men's line, he will give tuxedo pants and shirts and little twist.

"When I first started, I did flashier stuff. They were brighter. Now it's subtler. I don't like too much detail. I'm a minimalist. I like clean lines," he says.

Some of the clothes display a lot of beadwork. However, the designer treats beadwork as if it were part of the fabric. Their reason for being there is more functional than decorative.

Nonconformist

The producer chides him for revealing some pieces from the new collection for INQUIRER's pictorial. "It's only five pieces out of 90," he maintains. It's been an unwritten rule in the industry for designers never to show their clothes before their show.

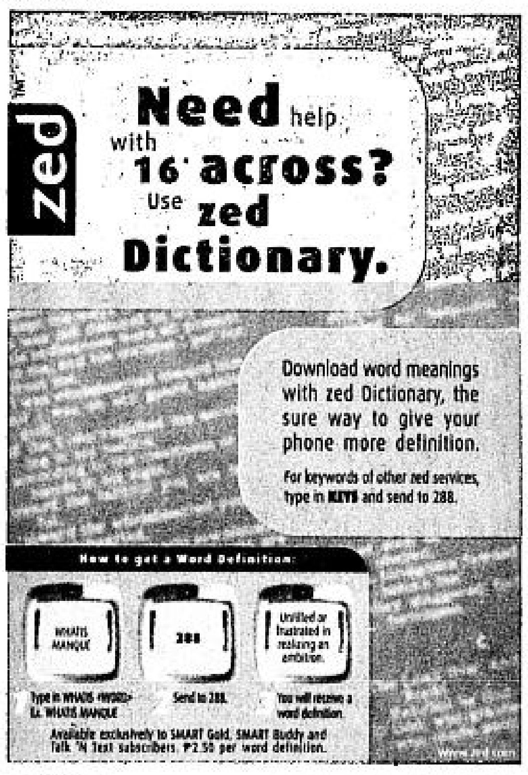
Being an Aquarian, Eala doesn't conform to norms and this reflects in his style. During the shoot, the first thing that would impress anyone was the love and care that went into each piece. Eala has been known to be fastidious with details, which is why the workmanship is impeccable and precise.

An original designer, he goes by instinct rather than trend. He doesn't attend fashion shows or looks at magazines to avoid being influenced by them. Eala says he wants to be true to himself.

"We've learned from our mistakes in the past, and we've corrected a lot of things. I was trained to make clothes that they look imported," he says.

"I feel like I'm starting from square one as my own boss. When I first started, I had no ammunition. This time, I'm bringing something with it."

RHETT'S/p.D6



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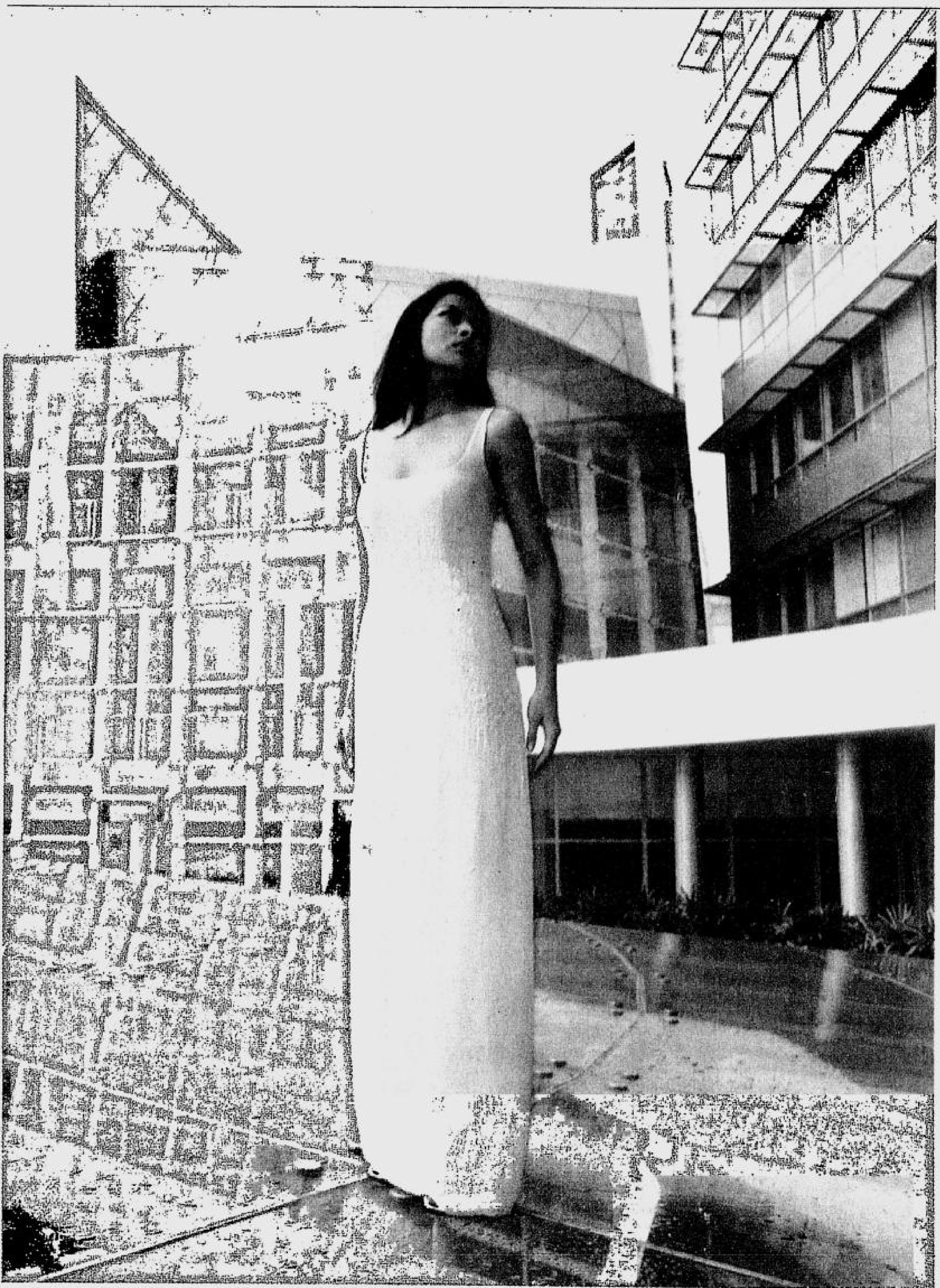
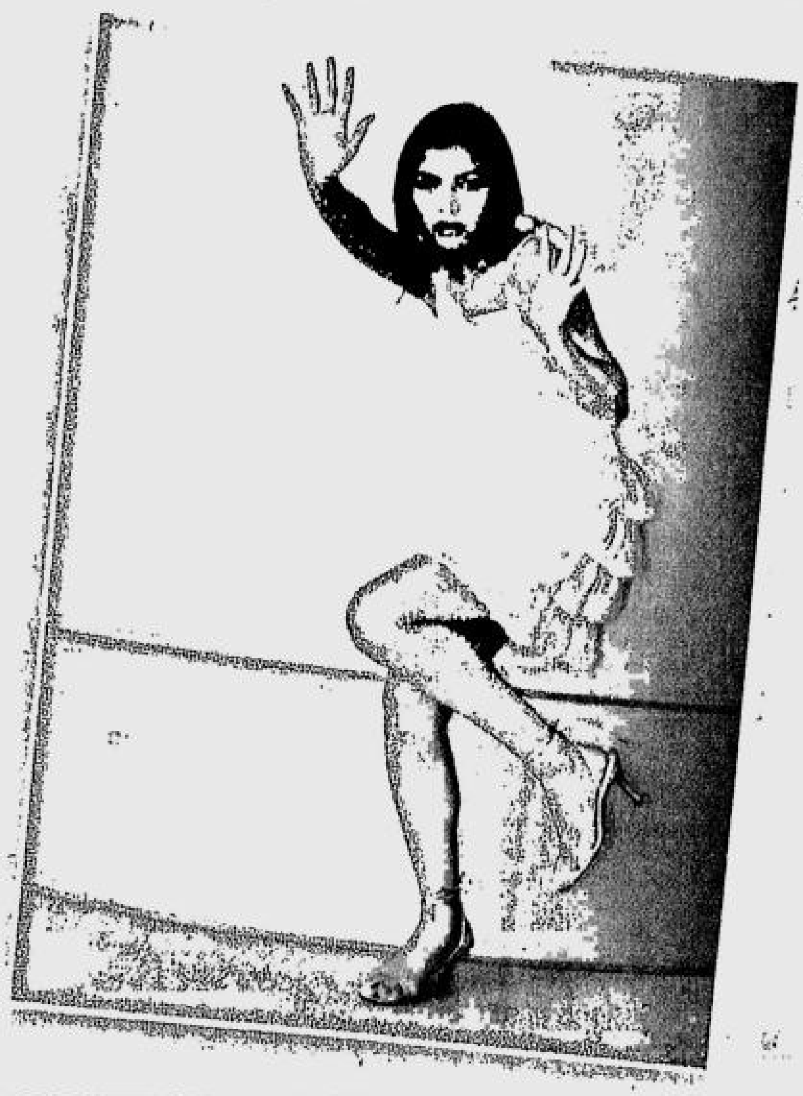


BRAVE SOUL. Rissa stands on the glass dome of the *porte cochere* of RCBC Plaza's podium. She's wearing silk chiffon column with vertical beadwork accentuating the torso.

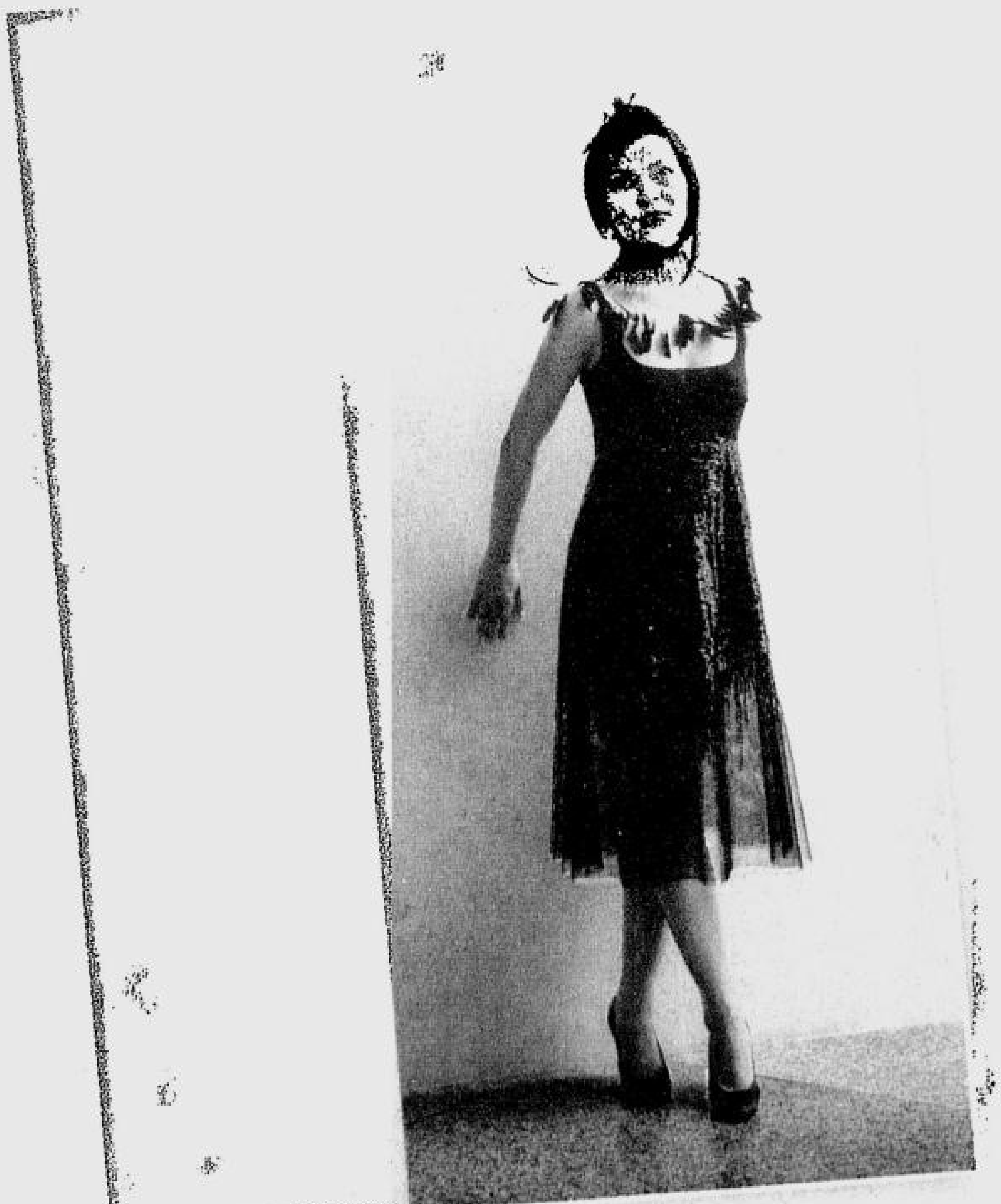


SPAGHETTI-STRAPPED chiffon dress took several yards to make with rows of petals. The evening gown version used 20 yards.

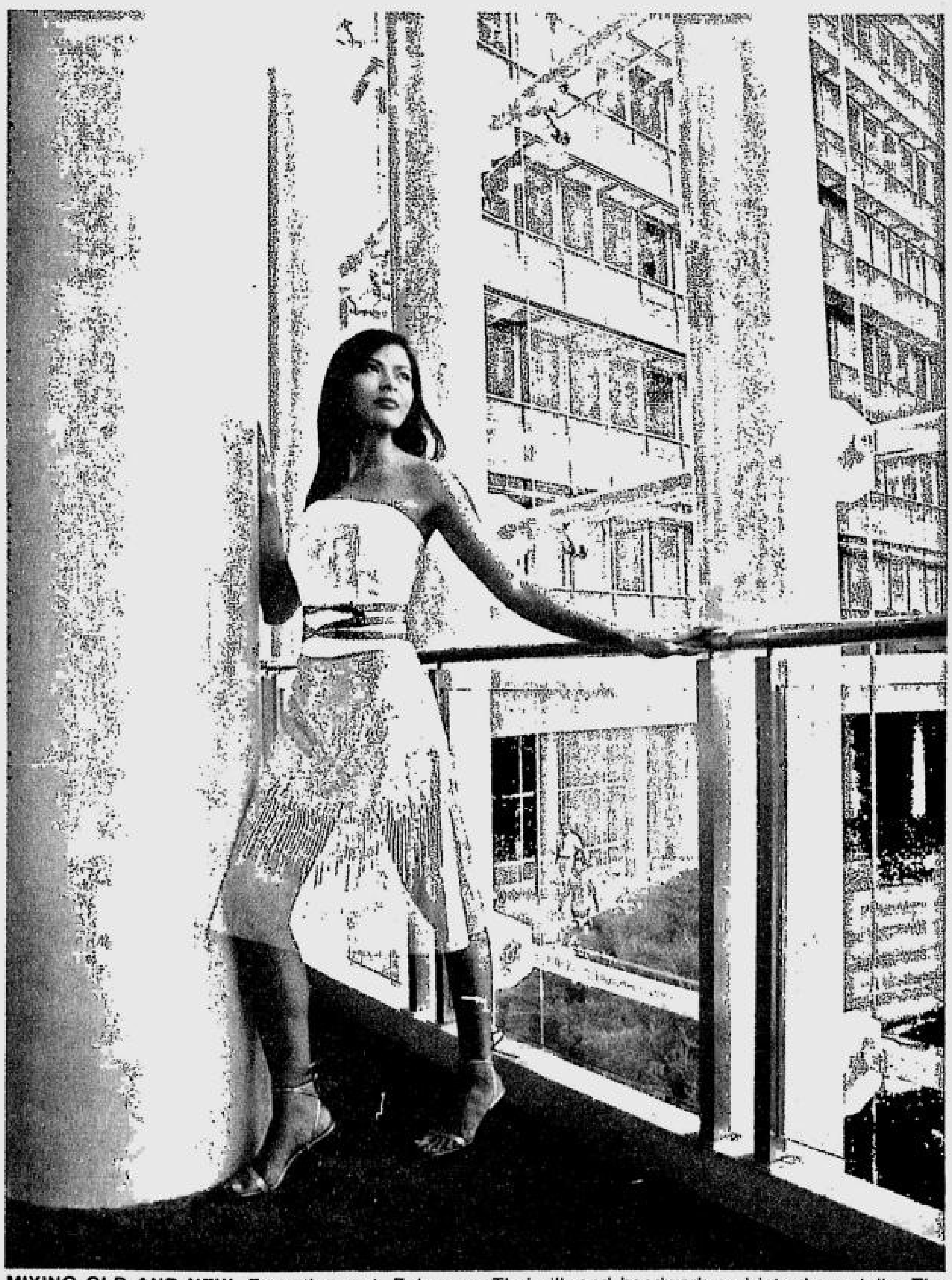
Rhett's state of independence

After leaving Rustan's, Rhett Eala has found his Bernard Arnault in a former client who so loves fashion that she's willing to invest in a terra incognita for it

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY HENRY CALAYAG
MODEL: RISSA MANANQUIL-SAMSON
ACCESSORIES: KRISTINE JEWELRY
LOCATION: RCBC PLAZA
SPECIAL THANKS TO RCBC REALTY CORP.



FOR THE MATURE AND SOPHISTICATED CLIENT. This black tulle empire dress is adorned with marabou feathers and beads.



MIXING OLD AND NEW. From the past, Eala uses Thai silk and beadwork and introduces tulle. The bustier is accentuated with grosgrain ribbons.

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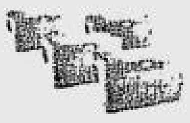
Aida Correa
Karayom Garments, Inc.,
Km. 15 South Super Highway, Bicutan

3rd Prize: One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike

Debbie Roble
Taytay, Danao City, Cebu

Actual appearance of prizes may vary from photos

Other Second Preliminary Draw Winners



4th Prizes :
Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers

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Mirza P. Andrade
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Nenita Jauler
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Mandaluyong, M.M.

5th Prizes :
Ten (10) NIKE Triax Junior Watches

Teodorico C. Rojas
Cedar Court, Dao Dist.,
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Tabado Aniceto
18 Bombay B.F. Homes,
Parañaque

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INC Compound, Sumulong,
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Grace Angela Flores
San Antonio Village,
Apas, Lahug

Eugenio D. Asuncion
Nappaccu Grande, Roxas
Mercedes, Isabela

Elmer Nicolas
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Demma Solimen
131 Lower Cypress Pl, Isan, B.C.

Constantino Galimba
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Codie I. Adriatico
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Magdalena Kogama
Blk 3 Lot 30 Ph. 2, Country Homes,
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Michael Balacora
Brgy. Punsima, Manapla,
Negros Occidental

Daisy Morelos
Blk 11 Lot 3 Ph. 1 DLC III,
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

Irene Sala
Pusok-Cemento, Lapu-Lapu City

Bencil Aguilar
260 Marungko,
Angat, Bulacan

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Rosemarie C. Abatayo
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Ariel F. Fabregas
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Alitagtag, Bais

Marverick U. Bayani
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Surigao City

Elenita A. Yeo
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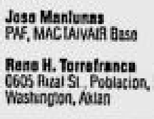

8th Prizes :
Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets

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Nancy Sates
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Dominador Uy
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Marcelo Chiong
c/o Cebu Service Ctr. KRC Bldg.,
Rm. 106 G/F, Subang Daku,
Mandaue City

Jocelyn C. Muero
M. Leonor St., S.P.C.

Sharon Lacuesta
Brgy. Mabuti Marcos,
Ilocos Norte

Primo P. Pagdato
Blk 29 Lot 10 dela Costa Homes IV
SJDM, Bulacan

Christopher D. Cipres
122-A Escario St., Cebu City

Lyka Tucat
Ngileb, Alfonso Lista,
Ifugao

Ian Manticajon
MC 888 A.S. Fortuna St.,
Banilad, M.C.

Joselito Calip
B5 L14 Arroy Subd.,
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Rocha Tabiliran
58 T. Abella St., Cebu City

Crispin J. Badista
Heroes Dr., A.S. Fortuna Banilad,
Mandaue City

Jeddah B. Gauiran
Roxas District, Naguilian,
Isabela

Armida Nahudan
Blk 1 Lot 149 Kasanyangan Vill.
Jolo, Sulu

Virgilio Bacay
2557 F. Juan Luna St.,
Tondo, Manila

Alex Dela Cruz
Brgy. San Miguel, San Antonio,
Zamboanga

Nick S. Villahermosa
6th St., San Antonio Village,
Apas, Cebu City

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Melanie Romero
Phase 6, Package 4 Camarin,
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Gina Susana S. Uba
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Lawaan Talisay City, Cebu

Catalina F. Rada
283 Quirino Highway, Baesa, Q.C.

Elizabeth C. Liresas
2-I Archbishop Reyes Ave., Cebu City

Cheryl Enoy
261 Englis V Rama, Cebu City

Glenda L. Depanao
0188 Purok Caimito, Tuburan Dist.,
Pagadian City

Vicente S. Andam
Eastern Bobongan,
Ramon Magsaysay 2 D.S.

Ismael H. Baconi
309 Rosas St., Angeles City

Divina S. Torres
C-2 Angadanan Isabela

Prudencio A. Igloria, Jr.
Upper Tabok, Mandaue City

Rameses E. Tumbaga
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Lito Mercado
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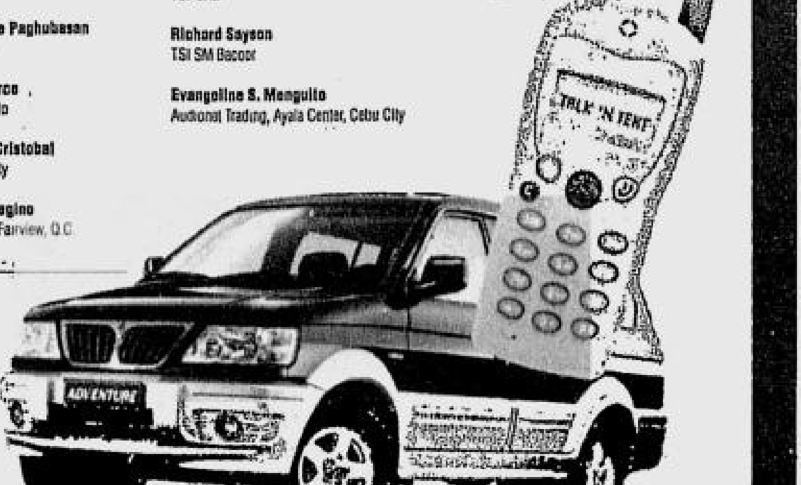

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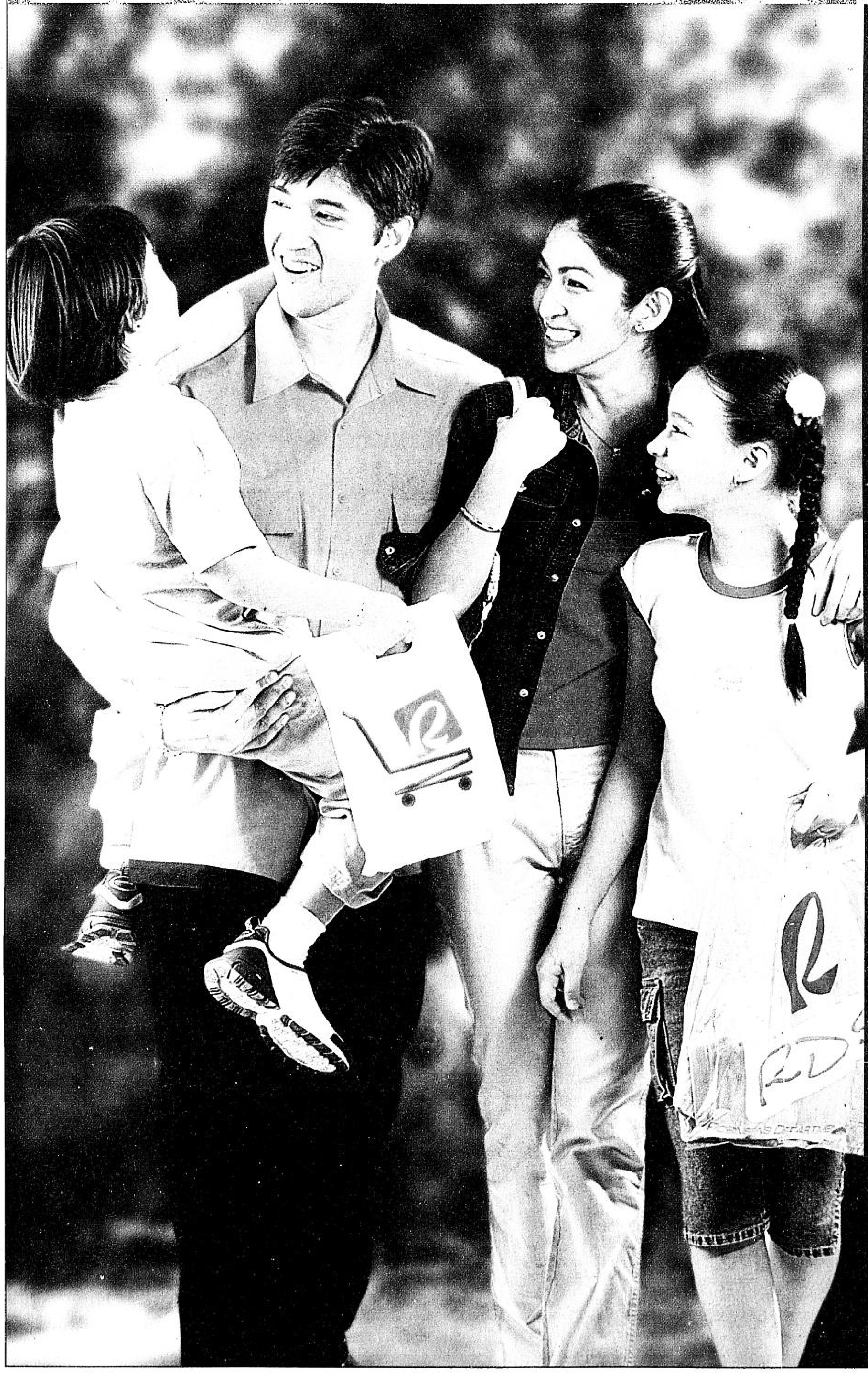


October 5

**Jolina Magdangal
Live concert
at the Mall Atrium
4:00 p.m.**

**Carlos Agassi
Live**

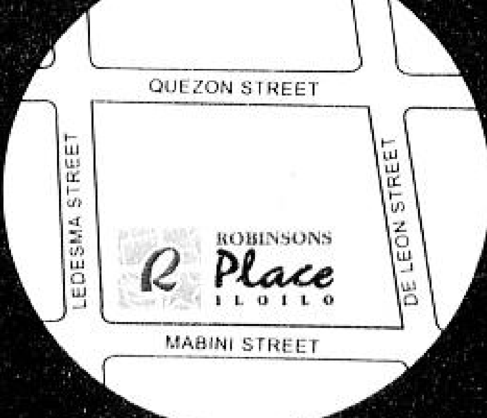
October 6

**"Bunyag Sang Banwa" ng
Robinsons & Surf
at Sta. Teresita Church,
Iloilo City
9:00 a.m.**

**Anne Curtis &
Chubi del Rosario
Fans' Day
at the Mall Atrium
1:00 p.m.**

October 7

**Mini Concert of
Angelika dela Cruz
at the Mall Atrium
4:00 p.m.**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THESE seeds will transmogrify into palms, but patience is necessary.

The garden as a veritable palmetum

By Adrian Lizares
Photos By Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

GARDEN enthusiasts will appreciate a garden's well-placed plants and share comments on their beauty. To the passionate plant lover, the garden transforms into a place where hours of boundless pleasure can be derived.

The garden featured today is a harmonious blend of ornamentation and practical commerce. Also melded here is an unrelenting comprehension of the rigors of the environment. When all of these aspects are present in the backyard, the very idea of domesticity is taken a few notches up.

The residents in this small showcase of biodiversity live simply. Rey Lucero, a forest entomology professor at the University of the Philippines, and his charming wife, Vernie, a social worker, have been residing in this vintage '60s

THE GARDEN/p.E2

You may create a micro ecosystem right in your own backyard

ANNUAL markings on the *Acrontophoenix alexandrae*, the Alexander king palm from Australia

Beauty starts with a hot shower bath.
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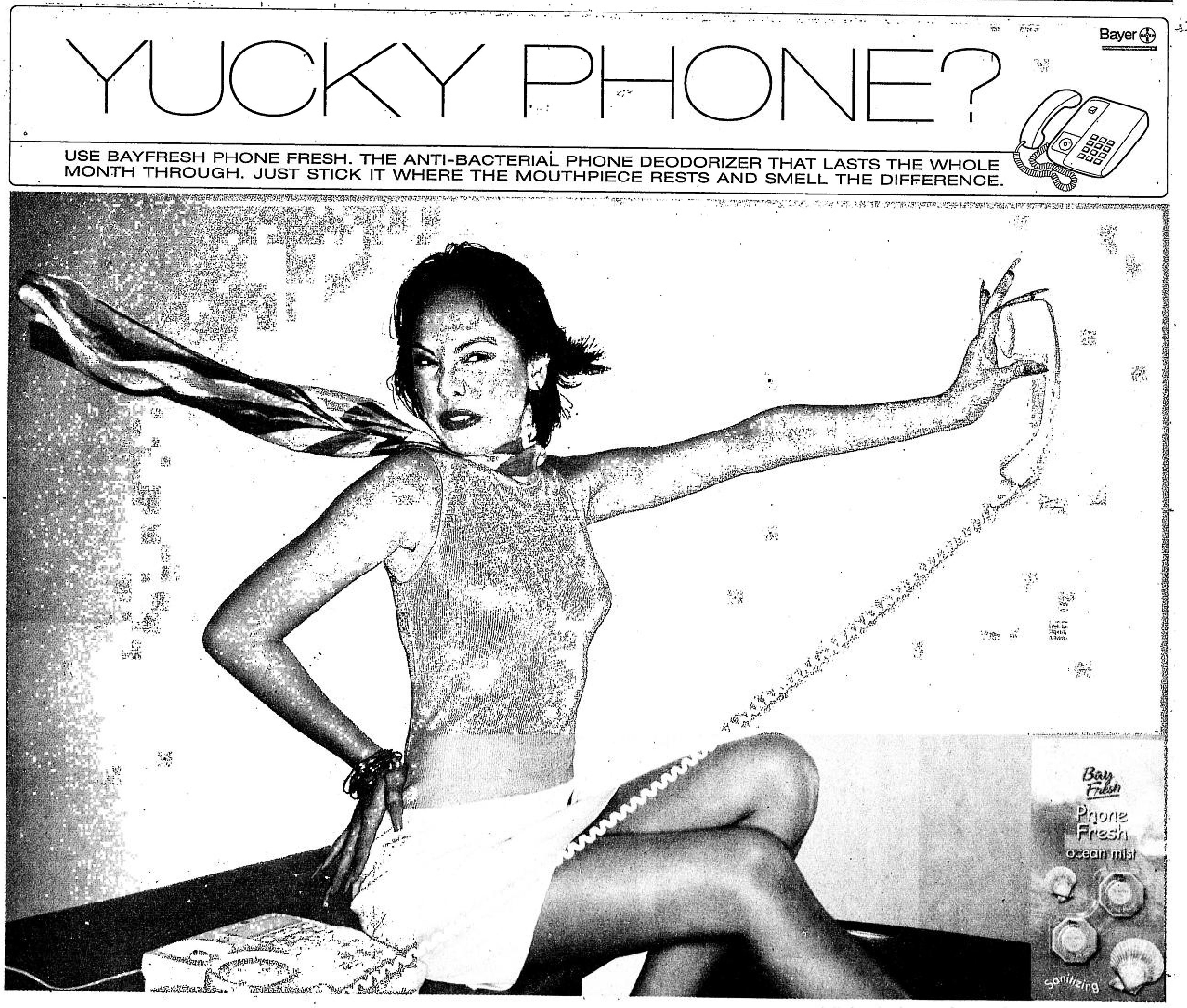
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VERNIE and her assorted tabletop gardens

A CREEPING palm from Northern Africa

The garden as a veritable palmetum

The Lucero garden is nature and life intertwined. One cannot live without the other

(From page E1)

bungalow at the foothills of Mt. Makiling in UP Los Baños for nearly 20 years. They acquired the house, together with its then juvenile palm residents, when the previous owner, a specialist palm collector and taxonomist, left the country in 1983.

Match

The adopted plants and their new caretakers could not have been a better match. The couple was fond of plants. What the taxonomist had left behind in 1983 was a treasure trove of palms, most of which had been culled as seeds from plant-hunting expeditions in various countries. Some came from as far as the jungles of Panama, while others were swapped with seeds of Philippine palms to plant breeders in Australia.

Eighteen years since, the original palms have now matured; they are evident as one enters the garden. The different palms possess an astonishing variety of trunks, leaf shapes, colors and textures.

Since most of the plants have reached maturity with periodic inflorecensces bearing seeds and nuts, the couple began to collect the seeds for the propagation of each species. Subsequent generations of seedlings have matured and have been moved to a bigger adjoining lot, which has become a farm in the neighboring province. These young plants have been sold to other palm collectors. Rey and Vernie get credit for having introduced one or more particular species of palms into our country's landscape.

To further improve seed productivity of its exotic palm grove, the couple has established an apiary in the garden. Bees are the best way to ensure pollination of the palm flowers, the other trees and plants within a radius of three to five kilometers from where they live. The honey produced from the hives of the local bee variety is extracted conscientiously, with much consideration for the nature of the insect.

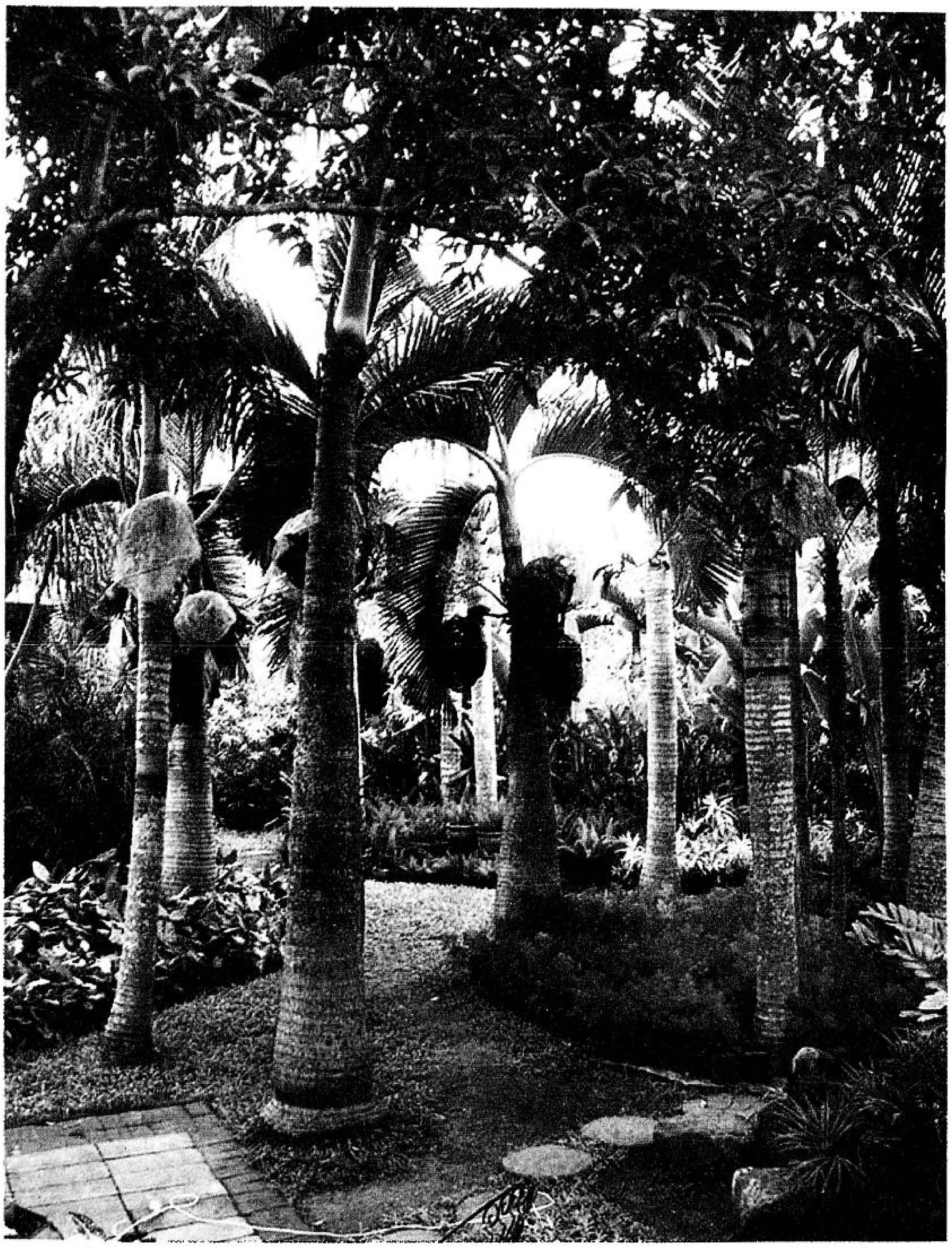
Cycle

The couple also does not believe in artificially inducing the plants to bloom and to produce seeds. Being the true ecologists, the gardeners rely on nature's cycle to fulfill the needs of the plot. Some people wonder how, during the recent El Niño drought phenomenon, the *Cocothrynax argentata* coughed up a premature batch of flowers and seeds. Vernie says, "The plant must have felt the effects and as an instinctual response produced a remarkable crop of seeds." It was nature's ways of preserving species.

Vernie and Rey continue on the propagation process and breed the seedlings into plants ready for the market, but this takes a couple of years and a lot of patience. While the most magnificent of their palms lines the avenues in our metropolis, others end up as tabletop gardens, which make for great gifts during Christmas. The basic benefits of this garden may all seem like science to us, but this veritable palmetum thrives simply and without pretension.

To contact Rey and Vernie Lucero's Folia Tropica, call (049) 536-2771/3253.

The Flower and Garden show at the UPLB Social Garden to commemorate Loyalty Day will run until Oct. 14.

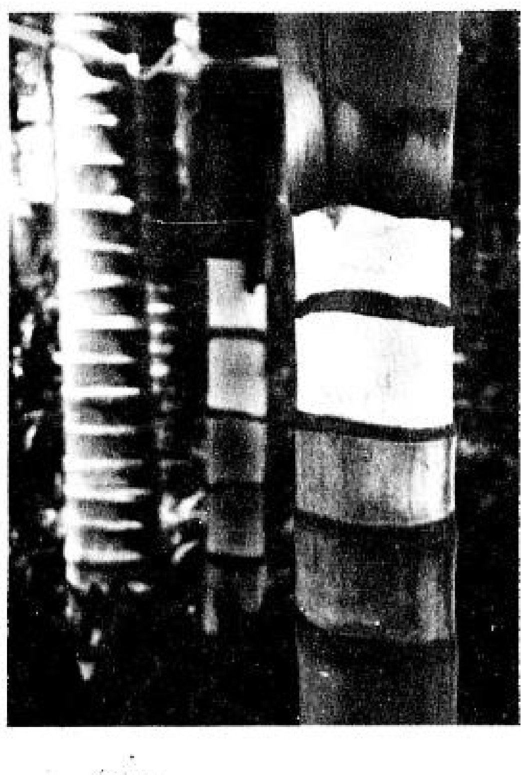


ALL of 18 years, the palm grove with its crop of seeds kept away from birds

***DUPSIS** decaryii*, the triangular blue palm

THE VELVETY texture of the crown shaft of the *Dysis lastellana*, the teddy bear palm

CHANGES in weather could alter growth patterns producing varied trunk shapes.



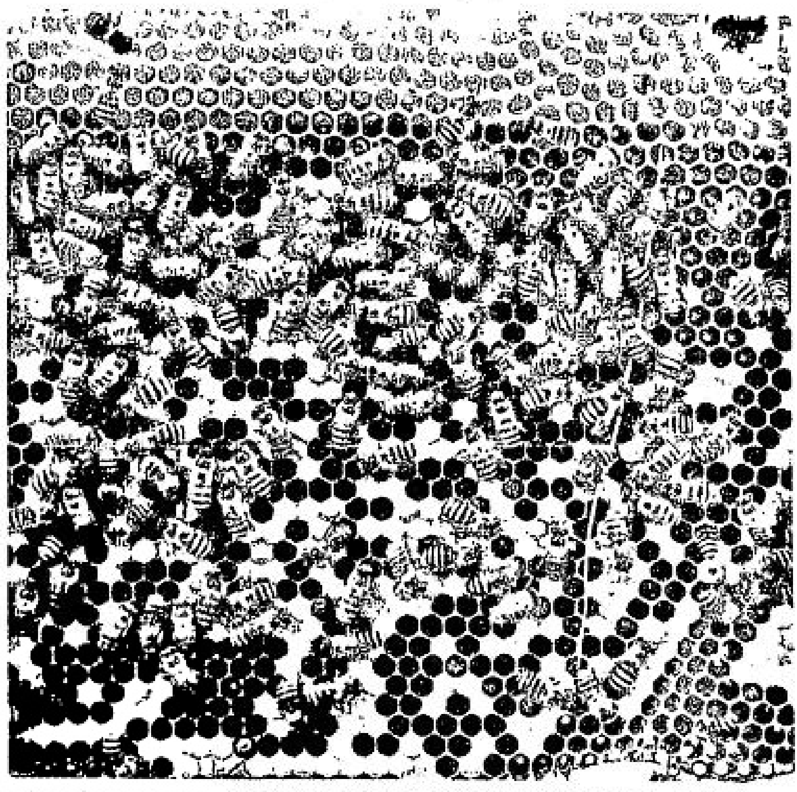
DIFFERENT stages of growth, the fresh rings of the teddy bear palm initially emerge white and later turn various shades of green.

INSIDE REY'S apiary: the *Apis cerena*, or *laywan*

SEEDS of the *seifrizii* palm

THE FASSELLATED bloom of a palm *chamaedorea*

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA



RIPE fruit of the *cocothrinax argentata "yuraguana de costa"*

Garden sweet garden

By Raymundo V. Lucero Jr.

THE LEAVES glimmer at the edges in the sudden light. The colors shine brightly like newly kindled flakes. Light triumphs upon the dawn of a new day. Dewdrops glisten on the grass, like tears beseeching the rising sun.

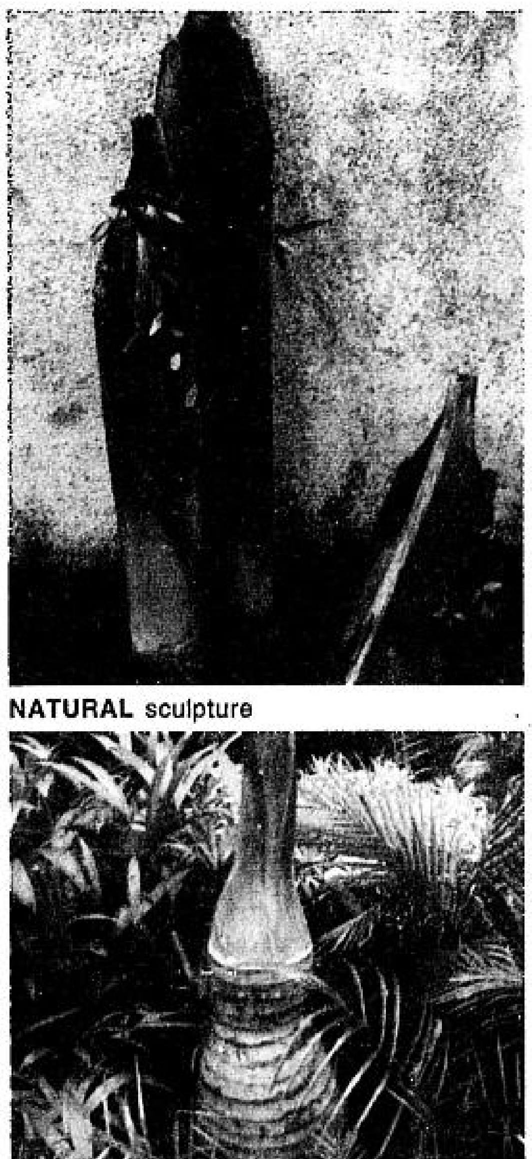
The garden is running with activity. Butterflies fly around with their usual grace, their scintillating wings adding a sharp contrast to the already colorful background. A grasshopper alights on a tree branch, seemingly contemplating the serenity. Bees buzz and fly at great speed, intent on fulfilling their daily tasks as quickly as possible. Spiders scuttle on the plant stems, tirelessly weaving fragile webs, hoping to catch a stray insect. A forest of leaves surrounds our house. I have always compared it to a white ship voyaging in a green ocean. I stand immobile, an observer, a silent witness to the unfolding beauty of our wondrous garden.

At the opposite side of the garden stands our doghouse. Spotty is scratching his nose, intent on catching the annoying flies buzzing around him. Saddam plays detective, sniffing at the ground with his tail held high. Our cat Sapu wanders around the premises, now and then rolling on the grass and meowing irritably, looking for rats and birds. Different tall exotic palms are aligned like soldiers, like sentinels observing the growth of young palm seedlings underneath. A tall *Phoenix roebellini* palm preens its sharp leaves and spiky trunk, muttering a hushed warning to all who pass the gate leading to the greenhouse. The velvety trunk of a young *Neodypsis lastellana* palm shines like a beacon in the green haze, while a fully grown *Zamia furfuraceae* (cardboard palm) broods near the faucet, its hard leaves shaped like clovers. A ponytail plant sits quietly beside our *chico* tree, its leaves curling up and down, like a newly flowing fountain.

It is not always like this. At times the clouds are so dark that sunlight is unable to pierce through, until they suddenly burst and let loose nourishing rain for the hungry plants. Sometimes, though, the sun gets so fierce that the air suddenly feels humid, similar to a live oven running at high temperature.

Our garden is nature and life intertwined. One cannot live without the other. Like a mystery unveiled, in it I realize nature's grandeur echoed in every corner, which lives and is praised by its splendor.

E-mail the author at r-lucero@laguna.net



NATURAL sculpture

SEEDLINGS as background for the bulbous champagne palm

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How to conduct a 'clean' campaign

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

IT'S been two years since Aleli V. Pansacola and I last met, and I couldn't believe what this gentle lady had been up to in the interim. She had entered politics, running for mayor in her hometown, Mauban in Quezon province. She went about it in the most unusual way—by advocating for "clean" living for better economic opportunities.

Aleli heads Daila Herbal Community Enterprises, which manufactures and markets herbal soaps and granules. She uses raw materials straight from nature, which makes her a true environmentalist.

Her soaps are chemical-free and her operations comply with all environmental directives. She has often refuted allegations that good soaps cannot be made without alkaline-benzene and other chemicals, but she has proved that you can, with her own herbal bath and laundry soaps as examples. Except for the fact that her operations are much smaller in scale, Aleli's products are competitive in quality. And there are those who will say, they're even better.

Her secret is no secret at all: she uses 100-percent coconut oil as her base where her competitors favor imported kinds, which make them more expensive. As she likes to say, "Herbal *na, mura pa* (It's herbal and more affordable)."

Aleli's production methods are the results of lessons at the Technology Resource Center and her immersion in holistic studies at Junie Kalaw's Philippine Institute of Alternative Futures. She practiced what she learned when she opened a small factory in Taguig, Rizal, and encouraged farmers in Pili, Laguna, to plant herbs and other sources of essential oils used in soap-making.

Business has prospered since we last met, she reports, but nothing in the multimillion-dollar scale of her multinational competitors. She strongly believes, however, that the abundance of raw materials and their easy availability could perk up our economy if, and she stresses the "if," we imported less. She means this not only of her particular products but those of other Filipino entrepreneurs who also utilize raw materials right from our own farms, forests and seas.

Part of out economic problem, she explains, is that people often don't know what they have around them, and how these can be used, when having such information could lead to increased incomes and self-employment.

In her case, she has found that sources of essential oil for soap making, like citronella and lemon grass, grow in many places, sometimes in a wild state. And yet, we have no citronella or lemon grass industries. We import patchouli, another essential oil source, which is so expensive, although that too can be found here. In her own province, all the coconuts she needs grow in abundance.

She has tried to improve the lot of the people in her Laguna farm by introducing cooperatives. Now she is motivating them to specialize in at least one crop or one product, whatever grows easily and in abundance in their locality. One farm could grow *sambong* bushes for medicinal purposes; another could cultivate *banaba* to make herbal tea. Other places could grow ylang-ylang which, when distilled as essential oil, can be sold at P10,000 a kilo; or *ube* (yam), which can be turned into powder for estrogen therapy. Moreover, they could learn to manufacture these products themselves.

Aleli dreams that one day, all those "specialized" farms join in a network of cooperatives, supplying each other and perhaps becoming the sole distributors of their particular product. The marketing possibilities then would be greater.

She expounded all these ideas during her campaign in last year's elections. She called her campaign style "alternative politics" for it veered almost completely away from conventional campaigns. For this, incidentally, she received the Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan Award during Quezon Day memorial activities on Aug. 19.

Her so-called "style" was simply to go from barrio to barrio in Mauban where she talked about the herbs and plants from which the people could derive a livelihood. There was no lambasting of opponents and patting oneself on the back. She had time and the inclination only to explain her ideas and projects, and to ask the people what their problem was. Their answer was invariably: the need to improve their lot. As she could not promise to give them money, she spoke instead of how to make it themselves through the use of raw materials growing around them.

Her *miting de avance* (the last, big campaign) was more like a workshop than a campaign, she says. Perhaps the people took it that way and forgot she was running for office. So, she lost, but not completely, for hers was an idealistic, novel approach, perhaps never seen in her town.

She believes that she was able to open the eyes of the townspeople, a big percent of them anyway, to the political as well as environmental realities of Mauban.

In retrospect, it seems apt that someone like Aleli, engaged as she is in the production of herbal soaps and bathing products, would have chalked up one more "cleaning" job last elections.

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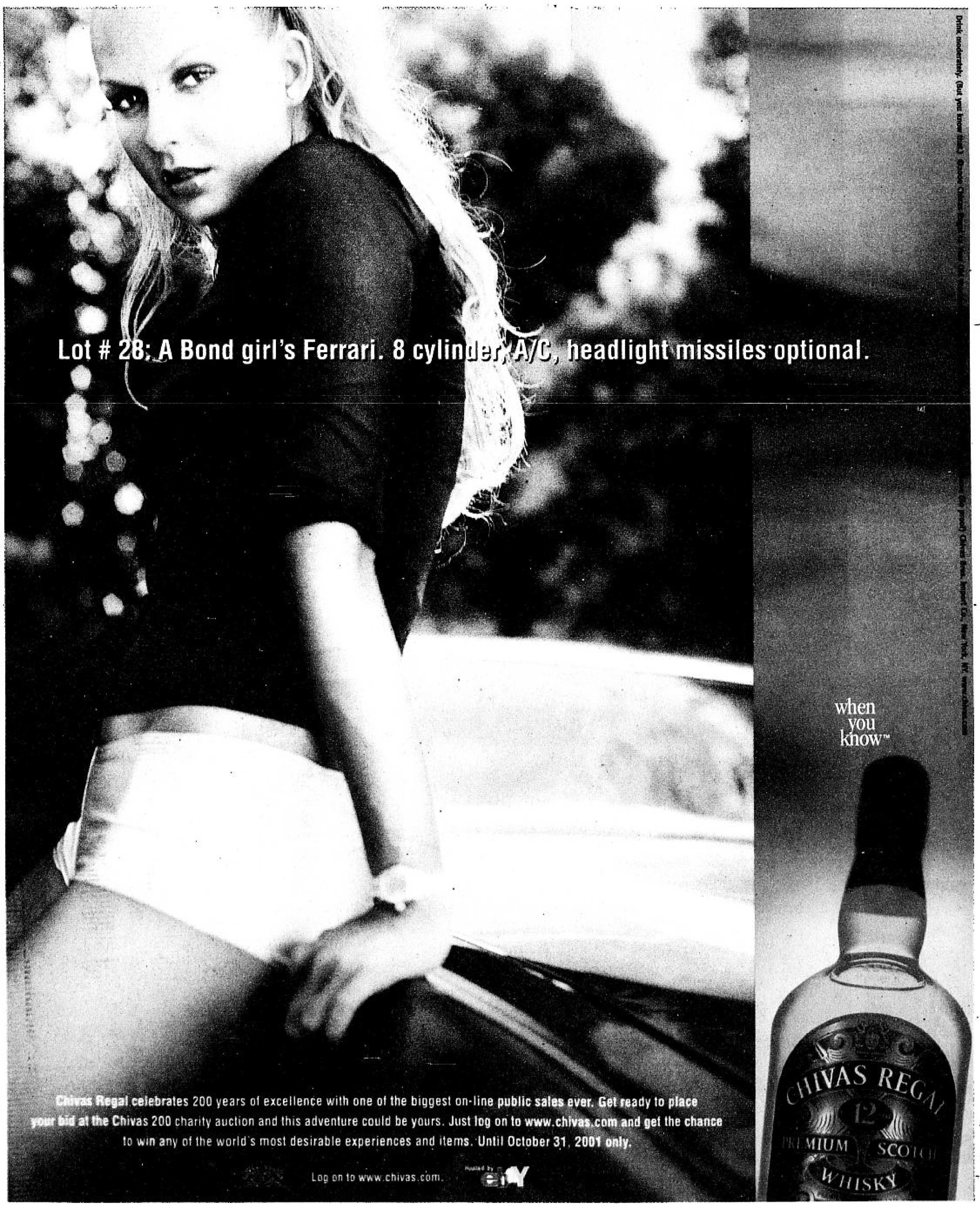

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A walk through one's dream home

VILLEROY & Boch recently unveiled its latest contribution to home interiors.

The concept, called The House of Villeroy & Boch, showcases bathroom fixtures and tiles, tableware and kitchenware designed by distinguished artists such as Kenzo and Paloma Picasso. Its home is in the newly renovated showroom of Hamburg International, Villeroy & Boch's exclusive local distributor.

Seen at its inauguration were architects and interior designers Leonardo Sioco and Ben Hughes of Steven Leach & Associates, Delfin Viola, Alex Balce, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Rosalie Ticsi; VIPs from the Embassy of Germany, charges d'affaires Roland Grafe and first secretary of economics and commercial affairs Axel Goehner. Other guests were K.D. Feddersen chair Klaus Voigt, Johnny and Betty Chua, Sonia Mathay, Lourdes Tinio and Eckard Rempe.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies led by Hamburg CEO Horst Kessler and Villeroy & Boch's vice chair Luitwin Gisbert Von Boch followed. The display then allowed guests to "walk through their dream home" as each of the several set models of bathroom ware, kitchenware and tableware were designed to correspond to the needs and tastes of every homeowner.

From making intricately shaped clay pots when it started in 1748, Villeroy & Boch now boasts of a complete line of tiles, bathroom ware, kitchenware and tableware. This traditional craftsmanship is then merged with modern design and functionality.

Other brands such as Dombracht, Hansa, Keuco, d line, Huppe, Blanco and Geberit were also featured in the showroom.

FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **LARRY MARIANO**, Account Manager

MESSAGES

WARMEST felicitations to the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) on its 27th Annual Conference.

I congratualat the Finex for spearheading this important event to be attended by business leaders and top financial executives in the country. This conference with the theme, "Finex: Catalyst for Responsible Leadership," manifests your unwavering commitment in leading the business sector towards greater and more productive involvement in our national development. With competent and conscientious executives such as the members of the Finex at the helm of our country's corporations and financial institutions, we will more readily attain our aspiration of sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

Our administration's national development agenda aimed to provide better lives to our people find impetus from the dynamism of our businesses and the whole economy. While providing employment and boosting economic activity, our businesses provide the resources that fuel our poverty alleviation program and the rest of our government projects. It is in this light that we appreciate the efforts of the Finex to ensure stability in our financial system, bolster investor confidence, and promote a more dynamic business environment. Indeed, the Finex is an invaluable partner in nation building.

I wish the success of this conference as it aims to nurture the managerial and financial expertise of our executives and develop a large pool of business leaders who shall lead companies and our economy in today's competitive global era.

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I EXTEND my warmest felicitations to the officers and men of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) on the holding of its 27th Annual Conference. As a former member of the Institute, I am very proud of its achievements and strong participation in nation building.

"Finex: A Catalyst for Responsible Leadership" is a most appropriate conference theme during this period in our nation's history when we need the support of a dynamic and committed private sector. As the country's organization of financial managers and financial experts belonging to the top 1,000 corporations, these key decision-makers of their respective companies contribute largely to the government's effort to keep the economy going.

Let us continue to work together in realizing our great potential for global competitiveness in the community of nations and in making a difference in the lives of our marginal and struggling Filipinos.

Again, congratulations and Mabuhay!

HON. JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary
Department of Finance

WARMEST greetings to all participants to the 27th Annual Conference of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) come Oct. 5, 2001 at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City.

Indeed, financial executives could prove to be catalysts for responsible leadership as embodied in your theme this year as the thrusts and expansion programs of not only private corporations, but also public corporations, are guided by the financial analysis and prescriptions of experts among you.

To our partners in development, more power and may your tribe increase.

RAUL M. MOLINTAS
Governor
Province of Benguet

ON BEHALF of Baguio's officialdom, I extend with utmost honor and pride our warmest greetings and sincerest best wishes to the participants composed of eminent professionals and financial executives of the country's top corporations to the Annual Conference of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) on Oct. 5, here in our beautiful city of pines and flowers.

May this wonderful and prestigious national event with the theme, "Finex: Catalyst for Responsible Leadership," be both successful and memorable for all involved.

Baguio's officialdom is all for responsible leadership for we believe that it is only through a leadership that is both enlightened and service-oriented that our local and national economy will move forward and prosper benefiting us all.

More power and God bless!

BERNARDO M. VERGARA
Mayor
City of Baguio

ON BEHALF of the Finex Week committee, I would like to warmly welcome the participants and guests to the 27th Annual Conference in Baguio Country Club, Baguio City. Today, in the cool City of Pines, marks the culmination of the Finex Week celebration.

This year's activities are guided by this year's theme: "Finex—A Catalyst for Responsible Leadership." In the midst of all the difficulties and economic and political crisis we are facing today, what we need now is to face and manage the ever increasing internal and external challenges with responsible leadership. We invited speakers who will dissect this issue from the viewpoints of the banking community, local government, media, community development and clergy.

We, in the Finex Week committee, have toiled long and hard to package a week-long activities—charity work, briefings, symposia, exhibits, sports events and fellowship socials—all to make the Finex Week celebration interesting and fun-filled for everyone, all in the spirit of unity and oneness.

Allow me to thank the hardworking members of the Finex Week committee and the chairs of the different sub-committees who persevered, traveled to Baguio despite the rains and distance and devotedly put together this week-long celebration to its fruition. I now do my curtsy to this team.

Let us all join hands and participate actively in all the sessions and activities.

ROSALINDA A.M. PASCO
Chair
Finex Week Committee

Finex: catalyst for responsible leadership

BY GEORGE S. CHUA

THE Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) is celebrating Finex Week from Sept. 30 to Oct. 6, and will be holding various programs and activities culminating with the 27th Finex Conference on Oct. 5, 2001 at the Baguio Country Club. Our conference theme this year, "Finex: Catalyst for Responsible Leadership," is quite appropriate and allows us to reflect on how the institute had and continues to play a pivotal role in molding the leaders of our country.

Finex currently has 740 members who are finance offices and senior executives in more than 500 large corporations and other organizations. This large pool of talent with the resources of the institutions they represent has a tremendous impact on the business sector, different government agencies and the community at large. With 25 standing committees, Finex is able to harness the various interests of its members to productive endeavors.

As a catalyst for responsible leadership, Finex provides a regular venue for interaction amongst its members during the monthly general membership meetings, social events and in the different committees. Very senior and dynamic business, government and social leaders are invited to be guest speakers so that the most relevant issues of the day are openly discussed. Various social events foster closer friendship amongst the members and are sometimes used for fund-raising activities for a worthy cause. The different committees work towards specific goals to further the interests of the members and the institute. This would cover the professional and personal development of the members and promoting the public awareness, social responsibility and advocacy role of Finex.

Responsible leadership, as Finex would like to cultivate it, means taking full responsibility in ensuring that the interests of all parties are adequately protected. This would include the employees, management, both majority and minority stockholders, clients, suppliers, government and the community at large. Responsible leadership also means full disclosure and transparency in all of our dealings particularly those that may result in a conflict of interest.

The high standards required of responsible leadership dictates that what is applicable to one must be applicable to all. Otherwise, this will lead to the setting up of a double standard. As a responsible leader, one must set the example for others to follow. It is the role of Finex to provide the appropriate environment to instill these high standards on its members. In this regard, it is safe to say that Finex has fulfilled its role and will continue to act as a catalyst for responsible leadership.

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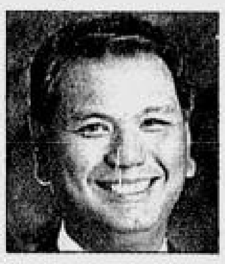

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MESSAGE

I EXTEND my warmest greetings to all Finex members and friends on the occasion of our Finex Week celebration.

Traditionally, the Finex Week is the most important event of our organization for the year. It features our end of the year Economic Briefing, the Annual General Membership Meeting, the Election of the new Board of Directors of the Institute and the new Trustees of the Finex Foundation, as well as other activities such as those pertaining to ethics, social involvement and sports. Most important of all, it highlights the Finex Annual Conference.

This year, the Annual Conference will be held in Baguio City. I enjoin all our members from Finex Metro Manila and from the affiliate chapters to come and attend this year's conference. In line with our theme "Finex: Catalyst for Responsible Leadership," we will have prominent speakers who will be discussing on issues involving responsible leadership and transparency, accountability, responsible participation, stewardship, and others.

The Finex Week celebration is important as it also provides us the opportunity to review what we have accomplished during the first ten months of the year. It is also the time that we begin to finalize the activities for the balance of the year and prepare for next year's schedule.

In review, we continued this year to develop the financial management knowledge and skills of our members and provided them the continuing opportunities for financial management education. These have been accomplished through the various seminars and symposia on topics such as the IRR of the Securities Regulation Code, e-Business and e-Banking, corporate governance, municipal bonds, anti-money laundering bill, estate and family wealth planning, various tax regulations, wealth management, and others.

In our monthly general membership meetings, we invited various speakers who spoke on topics such as the national budget, national security, the global economic slowdown and its impact on the Philippine economy, the proposed power bill, updates on the banking industry, and the developments in information technology.

We continued to promote the high standards of ethics through the regular recitation of our Finex pledge, published articles on ethical issues, and seminars on ethics. In spite of the difficulties encountered in this direction because of the strong influence in our environment, Finex is committed to pursue its efforts in attaining ethical behavior among its members.

To provide for the development of our members as a wholesome human resource, we continued our activities in sports such as basketball, tennis, bowling, and golf. We also held regular social activities to promote fellowship among our members. These included the family picnic, the Bingo socials, and the regular quarterly socials. For the first time in Finex history, we also organized this year a new committee to handle the spiritual concerns of our members.

Lastly, Finex will continue to be in the forefront as it tackles major issues involving national interest. With the active participation of its affiliate chapters in various parts of the country, it will remain a strong voice not only for the concerns of the business community, in general, nor for those of the financial executives, in particular, but for the common interest of the Filipino people.

Mabuhay!

RUPERT K. SUAREZ
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Finex: 33 years of responsible leadership

BY EDWIN V. FERNANDEZ

THE celebration of Finex Week commemorates the 33rd year of existence of Finex. From its humble origins in 1967 Finex has matured into one of the most respected and followed professional organizations in the Philippines today. The stringent entry requirements of Finex dictate that the applicant come from any of the top three positions of his or her institution: the chief executive officer, the chief operating officer or the chief financial officer.

It is therefore no wonder that Finex leads in almost every category of financial leadership in the country. Almost any leading corporation or financial institution in the country has a Finex member, and this member is to be found at the highest echelons of the organization.

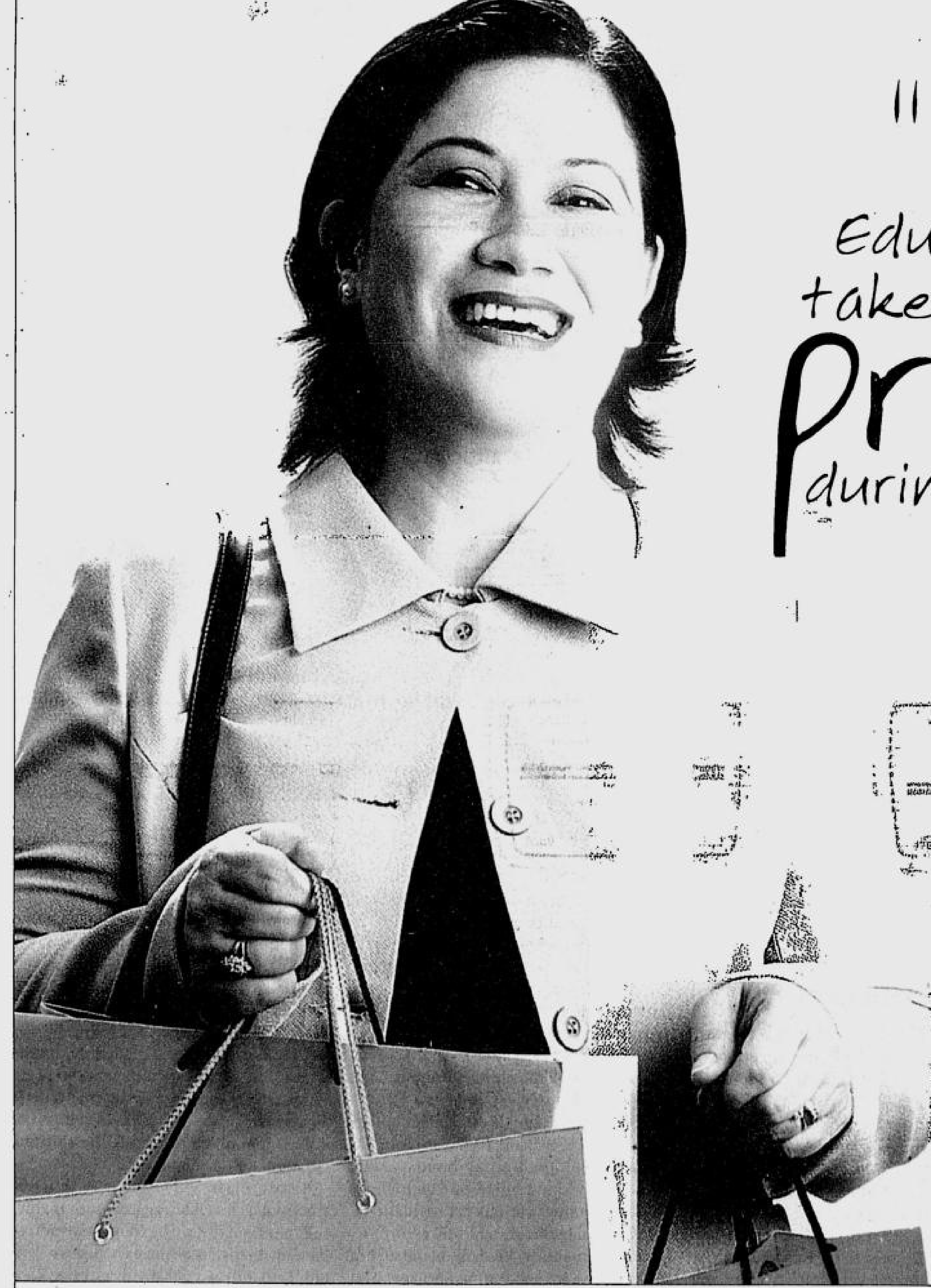
Prestige is not the *raison d'etre* of Finex. Its prime mission is one of advocacy. To this end, one will always find Finex at the forefront of issues of national import. It has been instrumental in the formation of the new Bangko Sentral. It has been at the forefront of market reforms in our capital markets. It has even been a major voice in denouncing the inadequacies of the Marcos and Estrada administrations and making its voice heard clearly.

Finex also takes care of its own. The organization is a beehive of constant professional development of its members. In the process, it also draws in the greater public into these professional development seminars. These seminars are the cutting edge of the topics being discussed because only the best of Finex professionals are tapped to handle the respective course contents. In the absence of Finex professionals to handle these courses, Finex sets into motion its tremendous network to get the best. As a consequence, Finex professional development offerings are most often fully sold out.

The development of future finance professionals is also a concern of Finex. It is actively involved in developing future finance professionals through the financing of the production of textbooks for finance use. The development of business education through the training of professors and teachers and the finance competition held for the students, all are part of the diverse world of Finex that seeks to constantly improve the finance profession at the grassroots level—the schools and universities that will train aspiring finance professionals.

Responsible leadership is not merely a motto at Finex. It is a way of life. A frame of mind. A guide for every action to be made under the highest professional, moral and ethical standards.

In a period where the leadership of national institutions is being put to the test of efficiency, competency and moral ascendancy, Finex has placed an appropriate and fitting theme for the commemoration of Finex Week—Finex: the Catalyst for Responsible Leadership.



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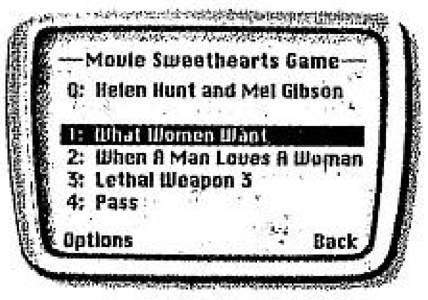
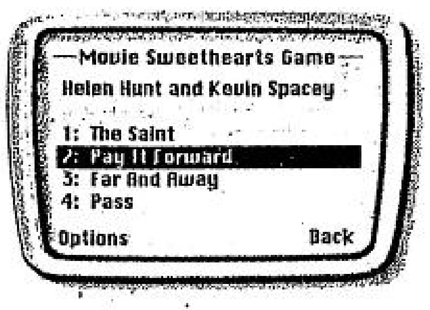
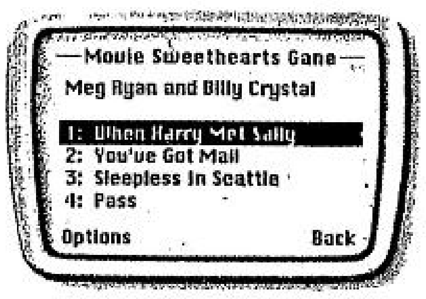


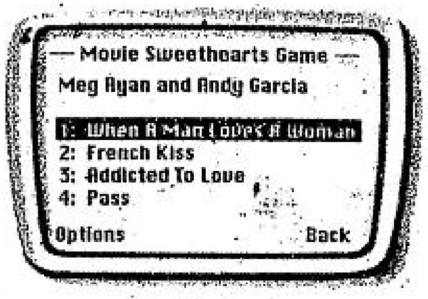
—Movie Sweethearts Game—
Q: Helen Hunt and Mel Gibson
1: What Women Want
2: When A Man Loves A Woman
3: Lethal Weapon 3
4: Pass
Options Back



—Movie Sweethearts Game—
Helen Hunt and Kevin Spacey
1: The Saint
2: Pay It Forward
3: Far And Away
4: Pass
Options Back



—Movie Sweethearts Game—
Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal
1: When Harry Met Sally
2: You've Got Mail
3: Sleepless In Seattle
4: Pass
Options Back



—Movie Sweethearts Game—
Meg Ryan and Andy Garcia
1: When A Man Loves A Woman
2: French Kiss
3: Addicted To Love
4: Pass
Options Back

It's easy! Just key in PLAY AS. You'll be asked to choose the movies that famous couples starred in.
To answer, simply press REPLY and key in the number (1, 2, 3, or 4) corresponding your choice. Press SEND.

What's more, you can also access official America's Sweethearts logos, picture messages, group graphics, and screen savers.

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To Get America's Sweethearts...	Key In...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO AS and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP AS and send to 239
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC AS and send to 239
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List of Keywords	SAVER AS and send to 239
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To play the Movie Sweethearts Game	PLAY AS and send to 239
To check points accumulated	DPOINTS and send to 239

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Finex Week for the development of the financial executive

IT TAKES a steady hand and firm resolve to put together an organization that would last three decades. And this is the building block by which the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) was built. Finex exists—among other things—to help create and maintain an environment conducive to the development of progressive concepts of financial management, in support of sound management in the conduct of business, government, and other undertakings.

Started in April 5, 1967, Finex was a well-studied response to the need of making aware the various financial management concepts being floated around various business schools and literature. Beginning with only six participants, Finex has now grown to well over 740 members. As an organization, it has national and international scope composed of eminent professionals, entrepreneurs, public servants and academicians whose knowledge and skills are key factors in the formulation of policies in the financial management of their respective organizations. Finex provides a forum for the development and advancement of its members in the field of modern business practice, and the promotion of business ethics and social involvement. Finex and its members continuously take a proactive stance in shaping public opinion and key policies on issues related to their areas of expertise.

This year alone, Finex conducted general membership meetings, seminars and symposia on various topics such as the national budget, national security, the global economic slowdown and its impact on the Philippine economy, the proposed power bill, updates on the banking industry, developments in information technology, the securities regulation code, e-business and e-banking, corporate governance and ethics, the anti-money laundering bill, municipal bonds, estate and family wealth planning, various tax regulations, and many others.

The aforementioned projects are in line with Finex's goals which include developing the financial management knowledge and skills of its members, provide a regular forum for the discussion of major issues related to the finance function as a medium for professional growth and as a vehicle for service to the business community; promote high standards of ethics, service and fairness in the practice of the financial executive's profession; provide opportunities for the development of the financial executive as a wholesome human resource and; promote fellowship among members as a basis for reinforcing closer cooperation in the joint accomplishment of common objectives.

Started Sept. 30 and running all the way to Oct. 6, Finex is having its annual Finex week, the highlight of its activities for the year. During this time, the organization holds its annual membership meeting and election of new directors for the institute and new trustees for the foundation. The celebration of Finex week also centers on the annual Finex conference which will be held this Friday. The whole day affair will have various speakers discussing relevant issues related to the week's theme: "Finex: Catalyst for Responsible Leadership."

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the featured guest speaker. An economic briefing and seminar on ethics will also be featured, as well as sports activities and an activity with underprivileged children. This will also signal the launch of the Finex coffee table book on ethics.

What else does the Finex week hope to accomplish? They will continue to serve the needs of its members as outlined in its goals. In the future, Finex will continue with its efforts in the anti-money laundering bill, the development of capital markets, securitization, reforms in various government agencies and others. Finex will continue to be at the forefront on matters concerning national interest.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

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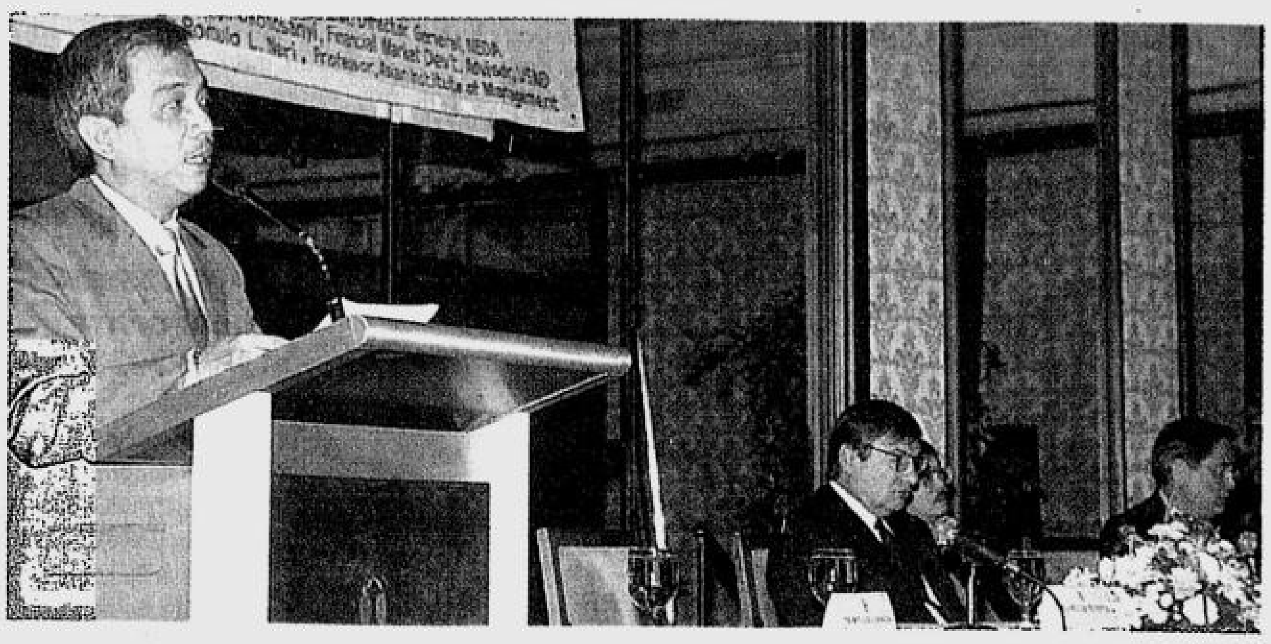
Finex officers and members in action

2001 economic briefing held at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercon, Oct 1 & 2


Romulo L. Neri, Professor, Asian Institute of Management

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Finex Night

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When Finex started

WHAT was it like in the year 1968 when Finex was organized?

It was the time of soul music, and it was the frug, boogaloo and mashed potatoes that dominated the dance floor. This was also the time of the mini skirt, with the standard hemline set four inches above the knee. It was the London dress designer Mary Quant who introduced the style, which thereafter propelled the initiator to worldwide fame. For men, *tancho tique* was in vogue, threatening the popularity of Three Flowers brillantine pomade.

In the first year of 'Finexistence', Arsenio Vistro was 37 years old and controller of La Tondeña inc. Reneo Albano was 41 years old and treasurer-controller of Delgado Bros. Romeo Co was employed at Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation and taught accounting, like Rene Albano, at the University of Sto. Tomas College of Commerce.

"We took turns hosting our meetings," Rene Albano recalls. Just to get attendance, every meeting featured a well-known female beauty in addition to the guest speaker. So David Sycip, then of Northern Motors, was paired with Miss Caltex Elsa Payumo. Cesar E.A. Virata, then dean of the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration, was paired with Gloria Diaz.

It was so difficult to recruit members that Rene Albano had to resort to a tit-for-tat recruiting approach: you join Finex and in turn I'll join your organization. This is how Pacquing Flore (Finex president 1977-78) and Rene Dragon (now congressman from Cavite) got into Finex.

Because Rene Albano was vice president-treasurer of the Manila Hilton, then the only 5-star hotel in Manila, this was a favored meeting place for Finex. "Our secretaries did nothing but Finex work," Arsenio Vistro reminisces, although Romy Co acted as the official secretariat. "We babied Finex, just to save it," muses Albano.

The big society news abroad was the marriage in October of Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of U.S. president John F. Kennedy, to one of the richest old men in the world, Aristotle Onassis. In November, Richard Nixon was elected US president.

In the Philippines, Ferdinand

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27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:00 a.m. **Registration**
8:30 **Ribbon Cutting**
Purificacion S. Suanding-Molintas
Regional Director, Department of Tourism
8:35 **Entry of Colors by the PMA Cadets**
National Anthem by the PMA Band
8:45 **Welcome Remarks and Presentation of Key to the City**
Hon. Bernardo M. Vergara
Mayor, Baguio City
8:55 **Opening Remarks**
Rupert K. Suarez
President, Finex
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Melesa D. Chua
President and CEO, Quadrillion Group of Companies
9:00 **Keynote Address**
Hon. Jose C. de Venecia
Speaker, House of Representatives
Awarding of Token of Appreciation to Keynote Speaker
Rupert K. Suarez
President, Finex

Jesus M. Zuleta Jr.
Managing Director, ZMG Signium Ward Howell
Master of Ceremonies

Session 1 (9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)
9:30 **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Speaker**
Grace P. Tiongco
VP-Internal Affairs, Finex
President, First Credit Consultants Corp.
9:35 **Address**
"Responsible Leadership and Transparency in the Banking System"
Deogracia N. Vistan
President and CEO, Equitable PCI Bank
Panel Members:
Franklin F. Ysaac
President, Franklin Financials Consultancy Phils. Inc.
Rolando K. David
President/COO, Wise Capital Investment and Trust Co. Inc.
Avmir D. Pangilinan
Vice President, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.
Rapporteur
Cornelia C. Dagdag
President and CEO, Philippine Central Depository Inc.
10:05 **Open Forum**
10:25 **Awarding of Token of Appreciation and Closing Remarks**
Roberto A. Atendido
Treasurer and Director, Finex
President, Asian Alliance Investment Corporation

Corazon R. Estrella
Executive VP & CFO,
First E-Bank Corporation
Session Chairperson

10:35-10:45 **Exhibitor's Time**
First Data Corporation

Session 2 (10:45 a.m. – 12:00 nn)
10:45 **Opening Remarks & Introduction of Speaker**
Rosalinda A.M. Pasco
Overall Chairman, Finex Week Committee
10:50 **Address**
"Accountability/Report Card System for National and Local Government Leaders"
Hon. Jose D. Lina Jr.
Secretary, Dept. of Interior and Local Gov't.
Panel Members
Alfredo S. Joaquin
EVP for Finance/Treasurer
Boulevard Holdings Inc.
Benel P. Lagua
Managing Director, The Guarantee Fund for SME
George A. Hamoy
President, Finex Iligan Inc.
Manager, PCIB-Del Pilar.
Rapporteur
Bernadette P. Astudillo
Vice President, Orix Metro Leasing & Finance Corp.
11:20 **Open Forum**
11:40 **Awarding of Token of Appreciation & Closing Remarks**
Senen L. Matoto
VP-Capital Markets Development
Executive Director, BPI Capital Corporation

Melito S. Salazar Jr.
Past Dierctor, Finex
Monetary Board Member, BSP
Session Chairperson

11:50-12 nn **Exhibitor's Time**
Hewlett-Packard Phils., Inc.
Lunch (12:00 nn – 1:00 p.m.)
Exhibitor's Time
Franklin Financials Consultancy Phils., Inc.
Luncheon Session (1:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.)
1:00 p.m. **Opening Remarks & Introduction of Interviewers & Interviewees**
Edgardo L. Limon
Director, Finex
President & CEO,
Intex Telecom Systems
1:10 **Round Table Discussion**
"Responsible Participation in Community Building"
Interviewers:
Cynthia V. Subijano
President, Solutions & Innovations Inc.
Roman A. Azanza Jr.
Past President, Finex
President, Equity Managers Asia Inc.
Edwin V. Fernandez
Past President, Finex
Managing Partner, CEO's Inc.
Interviewees:
Francisco A. Padilla
Director, Couples for Christ
Monico V. Jacob
Managing Partner, CEO's Inc.
Carolina E. Carreon
President & CEO, Bayan Trade Dotcom Inc.
2:20 **Open Forum**
Panel Members:
Dennis D. Decena
Past President, Finex
EVP/COO, Roxaco Land Corp.
Benito G. Soliven III
Overall Chairman, Fellowship Committee
Managing Partner, Pacific Asia Capital Corp.
Rafaelita R. Goño
Chairman, Programs & Meetings Committee
President, Egis Lending Corporation
Rapporteur
George S. Chua
Chairman, Publications Committee
Executive Vice President, Global Business Bank
2:50 **Awarding of Token of Appreciation & Closing Remarks**
Eugene T. Mateo
Director, Finex
Chief Finance Officer, Add Land Incorporated
Jaime Y. Ladao
Director, Finex
Chairman, Philbizinfo Inc.
3:50-3:35 **Exhibitor's Time**
Microsoft Philippines Inc.

Session 3 (3:35 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.)
3:35 **Opening Remarks & Introduction of Speaker**
Andrew Gan
Vice President,
Beacon Holdings Incorporated
3:40 **Address**
"Responsibility of the Clergy in Nation Building"
His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal, D.D.
Archbishop of Cebu
Panel Members:
Norie C. Bordador
CFO, AC Nielsen Philipines Inc.
Esther P. Magleo
President & CFO
Oillink International Corp./Unioil Petroleum Phils. Inc.
Emmanuel P. Tesalona
President, Finex Cebu, Inc.
Vice President, Planters Bank
Rapporteur
Ronnie B. Alcantara
Chairman, Professional Dev't. Committee
Senior Vice President, Insular Investment & Trust Corp.
4:20 **Open Forum**
4:40 **Awarding of Token of Appreciation & Closing Remarks**
Conchita L. Manabat
Executive Vice President, Finex
Managing Partner, C.L. Manabat & Co./Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Sally C. Monteiro
Session Chairperson

4:40 **Recap/Closing Remarks & Acknowledgment**
Lydia N. Orial
Chairperson, Technical Sessions Sub-Committee
5:10 **Exit of Colors – PMA Cadets**
5:15 **First Friday Mass** to be officiated by *His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal*
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Questions and Answers About the SSS

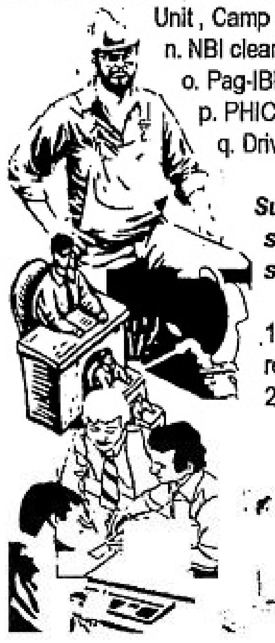
How can one become a member of the SSS?

An employee registering with the SSS for the first time should submit a properly accomplished ***SSS Form E-1 (Personal Record)*** together with the original/certified true copy and photocopy of his/her birth or baptismal certificate or passport.

If the birth or baptismal certificate or passport is not available, what other documents can be submitted?

In the absence of the birth or baptismal certificate or passport, any two of the following documents may be submitted:

a. Record of employment (accomplished upon employment)
b. GSIS Member's Record (if the member is also a government employee)
c. Certification from the National Archives
d. Alien Certificate of Registration
e. Birth or baptismal certificates of the children of the member
f. Marriage contract
g. School records (such as transcript of record, registration/enrollment form, ID Card issued by the school)
h. Certificate of Naturalization issued by the Bureau of Immigration (for aliens)
i. Certification from the Office of the Cultural Minorities
j. TIN card
k. Voter's ID card or Affidavit duly authenticated by COMELEC
l. Life Insurance Policy from any insurance company
m. Permit to Carry Firearms issued by the Fire and Explosives Unit , Camp Crame
n. NBI clearance
o. Pag-IBIG's Member's Data Record
p. PHIC Form
q. Driver's license issued by LTO



Supporting documents to be submitted with the SSS Form E-1 should include the following:

1. Name and date of birth of the registrant.
2. Birth certificate and marriage contract, including late registered documents, should have the following:

a. registry number
b. signature of the Local Civil Registrar (LCR) or his authorized signatory official. The name and signature of the official authorized to sign the document in the absence of the Local Civil Registrar must always be indicated.

c. Date received by NSO or LCR

All supporting documents should be without erasures, alterations, insertions or superimpositions. Any amendment or correction in the document should bear the marginal notation of the National Statistics Office.

Late registered documents should:

1. Be duly authenticated by the National Statistics Office (NSO)
2. Be stamped "Late Registration" on the upper right hand corner of the document
3. Have a filled-up affidavit at the back of the document explaining the reason for the delay

Other documents:

- For married persons - marriage contract
- If reporting children:
  - for legitimate children - birth or baptismal certificate of children
  - for illegitimate children - in the absence of birth or baptismal certificate, any of the following stating the relationship to the reported beneficiary:
    - school record
    - insurance policy
    - statement before a court
  - for legally adopted children - decree of adoption

The original/certified true copies and photocopies of these documents should be presented and submitted to the SSS for authentication.

Please visit the SSS office near your place of work or residence for further information.

Media Affairs Department

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kabalikat mo sa buhay
http://www.sss.gov.ph
sssemail@info.com.ph

THE Finex Secretariat in their resplendent office uniform. Seated from left are Marlene G. Latuna, staff assistant; Sylvia M. Refuerzo, finance supervisor; Chona G. Trinidad, office manager; and Analyn V. Viloria, staff assistant. Standing from left are Noel H. Hernandez, bookkeeper; Felipe N. Santos, staff assistant; Rhodee L. Concepcion, staff assistant; Hazel Marie C. Selda, staff assistant; Renato C. Barrientos, messenger-janitor.

When Finex started

(From page F6)

E. Marcos was in the middle of his first four-year term as president.

The big political news was the confrontation between the Philippines and Malaysia over ownership of Sabah. On the natural disaster side, an early morning earthquake of intensity 7 hit Metro Manila on Aug. 2 and collapsed the Ruby Towers building, killing 322 and injuring about the same number.

Then as now, tax collection was a main concern of government. Malacañang proposed to Congress the 1968 Philippine Tax Program, and predictably there was instant opposition. Finance Secretary Eduardo Z. Romualdez was quoted by Nap Rama in the Philippines Free Press, Nov. 16, 1968 issue: "Only 40.9% of legitimate taxpayers paid business taxes; only 60.7% of self-employed professionals paid taxes; the target of a million tax filers must yet be attained."

Auditor General Ismael Mathay St. reported that the latest available statistics, as of June 30, 1967, showed national indebtedness at P4.3 billion and a per capita public debt of P123.79. (From Edward R. Kiunisala's Philippines Free Press article, Nov. 2, 1968).

Towards the end of the year, on Oct. 29, to be exact, Joseph Ejercito Estrada won his electoral protest case against Dr. Braulio Sto. Domingo for mayorship of San Juan municipality, by a plurality of 192 votes. Judge Andres Reyes made a record of sorts, finishing the case in 10 months, from filing to decision.

On Jan. 15, 1968 itself, when Finex was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bulletin banner headline was the announcement from Jakarta that President Marcos and acting Indonesian President Suharto agreed to create a joint commission to study and recommend ways by which the Philippines and Indonesia could be of immediate economic help to each other. President Marcos was to fly to Thailand for an official visit the next day.

Alfonso Calalang succeeded Andres Castillo as Central Bank governor effective Jan. 1. On the occasion of his appointment, President Marcos told the new CB governor that during the present administration, there would be no devaluation of the peso nor imposition of foreign exchange controls.

In his State of the Nation address on Jan. 22, 1968, President Marcos said: "Today as I pass the half-way of my term of office, I am glad to report that in the year just passed we have sustained the momentum of our advance, we have moved forward at an accelerated and accelerating rate. This year we shall be called upon to initiate bold steps to support the pace of development that we have begun to maintain the momentum of our social and economic advance and to achieve within the next two years a meaningful degree of well-being among our people. The experience of nations shows that the cost of development must be borne mainly by the people themselves." Little did we know then what the cost would be like, and for whom the development would be.

a simple phrase
Today's life is full of complexities, but at the heart of it is our desire to stay connected
to the people we need and love. Which is why Globe Telecom gives you technology that is so advanced,
it has the power to put simplicity back into your life.
GLOBE TELECOM
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